

# iCcreate<sup>TM</sup>

New iPod mini and iLife '04 inside

52 pages of simple tutorials

Essential Mac advice

issue five

£6.00

ISSUE FIVE

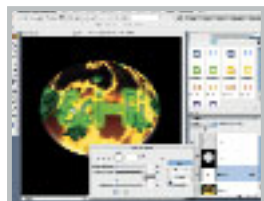
"IT'S ANOTHER MINI ADVENTURE"



## iPOD THE NEXT GENERATION

**LOOK!**  
SIX PAGES OF  
PHOTOSHOP  
TUTORIALS  
START ON  
PAGE 100

Secrets of the iPod revealed – every trick, every tip and every accessory you need to become an iPod master



### Master OS X and the iApps

- Nine pages of Panther tutorials
- How to edit a complete iMovie
- Make custom buttons for iDVD



### Make music on your Mac

- Get started with digital music
- Create a soundtrack in Reason
- Apple's new app GarageBand

**FREE**  
CD-ROM INSIDE

- Photoshop video tutorials
- Latest Mac games
- iTunes plug-ins
- Mac security tools
- Reason 2.5 demo
- Quickstart – PDF guides to get you started in OS X

X Mac OS X iMovie iPhoto iDVD iTunes iCal Final Cut Express

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back  
cover

# iCreate

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# Essentials

All the vital Mac information...

## 008 Talking Mac

Heart-warming tales of emancipation from the ills of Windows abound in this issue's installment of news and views from *iCreate* readers

## 010 iCandy

See stunning photography of all the latest kit and some old favourites in our visual tribute to Apple's mouth-wateringly stylish hardware

## 018 AppleTalk

Catch up on all the latest Mac news as we bring you a special report from Macworld San Francisco and relive one of the busiest years in Apple's history in our review of 2003

## 022 Subscriptions

Why not celebrate the fact that *iCreate* is being published on a more frequent basis by taking out a subscription? You'll get every issue rushed to your door and you'll never miss an edition

## 080 Your Questions Answered

Plagued with OS X problems? Struggling to find the right settings in iMovie? Let our resident Macintosh expert get you back on track with a speedy diagnosis and the right cure for your ailments

## 122 On The CD

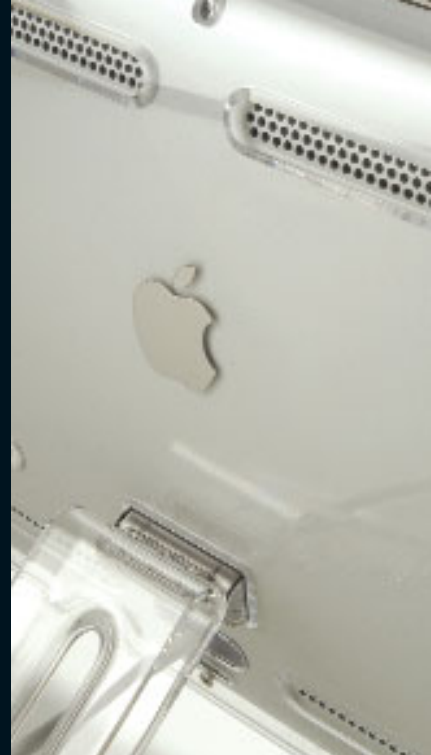
We've got an absolutely rammed disc for you this issue with Photoshop tutorials, security software and all the latest Mac games. Find out more about what's in store for you here

## 126 iWant

In 1997 Apple celebrated 20 years of the Macintosh with one of the most extravagant computers ever designed. Ladies and gentlemen, we present the 20th Anniversary Macintosh

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Where we showcase the products we wish Apple sold





# Features

Delving deeper into the Mac world

## 026 Secrets of the iPod revealed

It was the Christmas present of 2003 and it's set to dominate the world of portable digital music players in 2004. Find out how to get more from your iPod than you ever dreamed of in this power users' guide to the hidden secrets of Apple's coolest gadget

## 036 Make music on your Mac

We show you how to turn your Mac into a recording studio in this guide to getting started with digital music. All the kit, all the software and all the advice you need to make sweet music with your Mac

## 108 Reviews

Our totally independent product tests will help you to choose your next piece of kit with confidence. This issue we bring you a bumper crop of tests including the dual 2.0Ghz PowerMac G5, Soundtrack, the Apple Wireless Mouse and Keyboard and the latest Mac games

# Tutorials

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Learn how to edit a complete movie with our primers

## 052 iDVD

Find out how to create custom buttons for your DVD

## 056 iTunes

Discover the world of iTunes plug ins in our guide

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Share photos with friends and family the easy way

## 062 iChat AV

Get started with this exciting new video chat software

## 066 iCal

Take a tour of the new features in the latest iCal update

## 070 OS X – Panther

More expert tuition to help you master Panther

## 086 Final Cut Express

Get creative with your edits in our expert tutorial

## 092 Reason

Make your first digital music track with this soft synth

## 096 Peak LE 4.0

An introduction to the joys of hard disk recording

## 100 Photoshop Elements

Create a striking inlay for a music CD with our advice



# What readers are saying about iCreate

**"Congratulations on a wonderful mag! It is an excellent read from cover-to-cover."**

Carl Houghton

**"This magazine rocks!"**

Paul Pregolato, South Africa

**"You have made my transition from PC easier and incident free, for that I thank you."**

Roderick Seel

It seems  
strange to wish  
*iCreate* readers  
a happy New  
Year so late

in 2004, but as a quirk of publishing a bi-monthly magazine that is exactly what I am doing. Putting out only six issues of *iCreate* every year has its drawbacks. Not only is it difficult to get enough copies out to satisfy our growing army of readers, but at times we've struggled to stay up-to-date with Apple's announcements. No doubt by the time you read this Steve Jobs will have previewed Apple's latest innovation, the G5 will be running at 6Ghz and Bill Gates will be living as a down-and-out in Paris. But hark, dear iCreatee, for there is good news: we're increasing the frequency of *iCreate*. The magazine will now be out every six weeks, meaning you'll get nine issues a year instead of six and we'll be able to keep pace better with what's happening in the Mac universe in 2004. All of which brings us nicely round to the year ahead. If 2004 turns out anything like the last (see our review of 2003 on page 21), we'll be deluged with product updates and innovations from Apple. Last year brought us the iTunes Music Store, the G5, Panther and a host of hardware updates. How will Apple follow this up? And, more importantly, can Apple follow this up? We begin our look at the latest developments with a report from Macworld San Francisco (page 18) and you can rest assured that we'll keep you informed about Mac news as soon as we get it.

Thanks for all your support in 2003 and here's wishing each and every one of you a happy, prosperous and creative New Year.

Paul Newman, pauln@icreatemagazine.com

# Welcome





# Talking Mac

Chuffed to bits with your new Mac? Got a cunning plan to rid the world of Windows PCs and replace them with Apple goodness? Write in and share the product of your fevered imagination and we'll share it with the rest of the Mac universe...



## Send us mail

Get in touch in the following ways:

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## iCreate Letter of the month

**Subject: The Force is with me**

**From: Roderick Seel**

As a PC user of some years the thought of converting over to Mac was like giving garlic to a vampire. I cringed when I saw OS 9 being run in the design studio of the printing company where I worked, my Windows XP made it look pedestrian at best. I did, however, have an overwhelming desire to learn design and thought owning a Mac was the only way to go. So, after considerable deliberation, I ordered a new 17-inch iMac with Panther as the Operating System. I figured I could keep my PC downstairs and use the Mac for work only. Did I get a shock or what?

I have used my Mac for about a month, it has already taken pride of place downstairs, and the PC has been given to my son. The ease of use and the power of this baby is awesome, I can't help but feel that PC users have been brainwashed in the whole concept that they are better than Apple, my only hope is that they too will be liberated. This brings me to the reason I am mailing you. Not only is the Mac the best computer I have used, but the quality of your magazine and the tutorials are positively classy. You have made my transition from PC easier and incident free, for that I thank you. Long may you continue.

*Yet another victory for the Mac! Congratulations on making the switch from the dark side, Roderick, and long may you continue to enjoy the benefits of the Mac platform. Do any other readers have a switching story to share? Then drop us an email, we'd love to hear about how you're getting on with your new machine.*



Flick of the switcher: iCreate reader Roderick Seel was so impressed with his 17-inch iMac that he immediately handed his Windows XP PC to his son and hasn't looked back...

**Subject: Sound advice**

**From: Richard Jones**

Re: page 46 issue three. Although there is little to gain from converting MP3 files to AAC, if you really wish to you can. As long as your import option is set for 'AAC encoding', the 'Advanced' menu will offer 'Convert selection to AAC'. Likewise, if 'Import' is set to 'AIFF' or 'AIFF', this is offered by the 'Advanced' menu instead. My main use for this feature is when capturing audio from an analogue source. It produces bulky AIFF files from your source material that are readily compacted from AAC to MP3. Sorry to come across as a bit geeky. However, I love the layout and clarity of your magazine.

*It's great to hear from an Australian reader - word about iCreate really is spreading fast. Thanks for sharing your advice with us with regard to audio encoding, Richard. Although, as you rightly point out, we can't understand why anyone would want to convert from MP3 to AAC.*

**Subject: I want to be a part of it**

**From: Paul Figgiani**

I work on Wall Street here in NYC. Each Friday I stock up on the latest computer and design magazines. Yesterday was the first time I saw an issue of your new publication. Being an avid Mac user, I purchased it. On my way home, I started to flip through the mag. I wanted to tell you I was taken back by what I saw. The magazine is absolutely fabulous! I really think it is the best Mac user publication that is available right now. Here in New York it is fairly easy to pick up issues of magazines from the UK. Most are terrific; yours is a notch above the rest. The layout, photos, printed information and the rest is just so perfect, and I will save each issue for future reference. I want to subscribe.

*We're flattered that you rate the magazine so highly, Paul. The good news is that we can send a subscription to anywhere in the world. We've also just increased the frequency of the magazine from six to nine times a year. A nine-issue international subscription currently costs £55 (roughly \$99 at time of writing) and you can order by calling our hotline on 44 870 444 8682.*

**Subject: Apple for the teacher**

**From: Dave Phelan**

Just a short note to say that I got the new issue and WOW: you have gone and done it again. Superb. I am a teacher in a secondary school and use Macs for the creative side of things. My biggest problem with your previous issues has been that I brought them into school and the students just fell on them. It has given rise to so many possibilities for projects, but has pushed me to my limits in trying to keep one page ahead of them!

I hope that you do not forget AppleWorks in your tutorials. I have used it to integrate with iMovie. Because I teach geography, I take a two to three minute video of, say, glacial mountains, split the video at different points, export the last frame into AppleWorks and draw the lines of hanging valleys and arrows with the names on etc. I then save it as a JPEG and import it back into iMovie, put in a transition before and after and then I have a video that explains what I am trying to teach.

*It's great to have some feedback from across the Irish Sea, and reassuring to know that you are putting the magazine to good use, Dave. The Mac has always been both an educational and a creative platform and it sounds like you've managed to achieve the best of both worlds. Don't worry about AppleWorks coverage, we'll get round to looking at it sooner rather than later.*

This version has the following enhancements over the Classic Mac OS version

Styled text, **bold**, *italic*, **color**, **font** and graphics 

Notes of unlimited size

Find text in single note or across multiple notes

Access to standard services for functions such as spell check

"Make Sticky" service allows you create a note from selected text in other apps

**Subject:** Box of delights

**From:** Tony Brown

I have been a computer user for many years now, although I am a very recent convert to Macs, having only purchased my 12-inch PowerBook in September. In truth, the reason that I decided to buy a Mac as opposed to a PC notebook (the platform that I was used to) had little to do with any real knowledge about Macs and their functionality, but... Well, the thing is so damn sexy! Small, light, ergonomic and powerful enough for my needs have always been my basic criteria when considering notebooks (of which I have now had four) and I saw nothing, I repeat nothing, in the range of PC laptops/notebooks that even came close to the gorgeous design, user friendliness and downright seductiveness of this machine. Did I say machine? This small box of delights has become my friend, personal assistant, an almost constant companion and (perhaps more to the point) almost a desktop replacement. Sadly, I still have to use my PC desktop for some tasks, at least until I can transfer all of my business files over. If the PowerBook were a member of the opposite sex... Well, just think of whichever beautiful woman/man rings your bell and you'll get the idea!

*We share your adulation for the PowerBook, Peter. It is truly the best laptop ever created and, unlike PC laptops, comes in three different sizes for people who want different things from their portables. Hopefully you enjoyed the PowerBook feature in issue four.*

The 12-inch PowerBook changed Tony Brown's perception of the Mac platform



**Subject:** Best of fiends

**From:** Caleb Lummer

First of all, let me tell you that I love *iCreate*. It's a great magazine. I wanted to just email you guys and tell you that I think that I found the typo of the first edition of your magazine. It's on the iCandy page, with the iMac. It could just be me, but I am pretty sure it is supposed to say 'faraway friends', not 'faraway fiends'. Personally I wouldn't want to communicate with fiends on a video camera. But seriously, I love the magazine. It rocks. It is very well put together and not too technical. So since I found the first typo, do I get a prize? Like an iPod? That would be sweet...

*iCreate would like to make it very clear that we do not advocate the use of Apple equipment, or any other equipment for that matter, to chat with faraway fiends. In fact we suggest that you only use it to stay in touch with your best fiend, closest fiend or an old fiend... Seriously, though, well spotted Caleb. We howled in agony when we spotted that one in the office, but we're slowly coming round to the amusing nature of the mistake. Very slowly.*

**Subject:** Desperately seeking issue two

**From:** Peter Whickman

When I first saw *iCreate*, it impressed me with its very sophisticated appearance. It even struck me as expensive until I realised that this new magazine was only one penny more than the one I happily buy every month. When I browsed through it I didn't buy it because it was devoted entirely to OS X, and I was still learning OS 9.2.2. But I kept returning. After all, it did have tutorials on some things in OS 9, like iTunes and iMovie. And they're so easy to follow. So I bought it. Issue two came out while I was on holiday and I forgot all about it until issue three came out. I bought it, loved it and began to take an interest in a friend's OS X 10.2.3. So then I bought the very new Panther and am pleased with it.

Now the point, at last! I have tried everywhere to obtain a copy of issue two without success. By this time *iCreate* back issues staff know the sound of my voice, but they still can't find me one. There appear to be none out there. Now for the appeal: can anyone, anywhere, find me a copy of issue two? I will happily and generously reimburse all expenses. Perhaps the magazine will forward any letters or emails to me. Thanks.

*We've had literally hundreds of emails, letters and phone calls about the first three issues, but we're afraid they have been totally sold out for some months now. If any readers have spare copies that they'd like to sell or exchange, please email in and we'll put you in touch with needy readers.*



## Clipboard

**Subject:** Issues one and two wanted  
**From:** Ian Astle

I shall leave no stone unturned in my search for the first two issues! Is it possible you could publish part of my letter in your next issue in case any readers have more than one copy of issue one or two which they might wish to sell? If so my phone number is 07970 802312.

*Consider it done, Ian.*

**Subject:** Griffin iTrip

**From:** Ron Bird

Thank you for publishing such a wonderful magazine! Yet another drawback of the iTrip is that the Home Office will be down on you like a ton of bricks if you are caught using it. Thanks for the mag, it's good stuff.

*We'll have to look into this in more detail, because Griffin seems to think that it's now okay to sell this device in the UK. We'll keep you posted...*

**Subject:** Educational discounts

**From:** Scott Hacke

I purchased one of your magazines at a local Borders bookstore here in Beaverton, Oregon. Wow, *iCreate* is a truly wonderful publication and we are interested in subscribing. We are a non-profit school district and are hoping that you might have a special free or discounted rate for organizations such as ours.

*Sorry Scott, we currently don't offer discounts to educational establishments. It's certainly something we'll look into, however. In the meantime, you may like to consider an international subscription. Details are on page 22.*

**Subject:** I've subscribed

**From:** Freddy Bryson-Bassett

I have been given a copy of your new magazine, *iCreate*, and immediately fallen in love with it. I have sent my subscription today.

**Subject:** Stateside kudos

**From:** Jeffery Bonacci

I was so delighted to see this magazine at my local shop, I couldn't wait to pick it up and read it. I think you have done a tremendous job with this magazine – sort of the British version of Mac design. Kudos to you!



icandy

GS





## PowerMac G5

**About:** Introducing the alpha male of the Apple hardware range – the PowerMac G5. At the centre of the brawniest internal system seen this side of a supercomputer laboratory are two 2.0Ghz G5 chips that literally plough through even the most complex tasks. All that power can set those solenoids simmering though, so the PowerMac G5 includes no fewer than nine computer controlled fans to restore a touch of order to the temperature side of things. Big, mean and top of the foodchain. Can your bank balance handle the G5?

**Base model:** £1,399.00

**Best model:** £2,299.00



## iMac

**About:** Say hello and thank you to the original iMac, the computer that turned Apple's fortunes around and had product designers from Tamworth to Taipei inserting bondi blue translucency into everything from alarm clocks to vacuum cleaners.

The iMacs featured here were actually the second generation Apple released and came in five different 'flavours': Blueberry, Strawberry, Lime, Grape and Tangerine. Invested with the power of fruit the second generation iMac proved an even bigger hit than the first. What's your flavour?

**Specs:** 266Mhz G3 processor, 32Mb of RAM, 6Gb hard drive, ATI Rage Pro Turbo graphics card, 24xCD-ROM, two USB ports









# iCandy

## Apple Wireless Mouse

**About:** Cut the cables and enjoy an almost Zen-like freedom from desktop clutter with the new Apple Wireless Mouse. White, elliptical, buttonless and stringless, this wonder connects to a Macintosh via either built-in Bluetooth (on the latest PowerBooks and iBooks) or a separate Bluetooth module and works up to a range of 30 feet. There's no need to worry about security either, because there's 128-bit over-the-air encryption.

**Do say:** Partner with the Apple Wireless Keyboard and AirPort Extreme for the ultimate in cable-free home computing

**Don't say:** So where's the other button, then?



Wireless Mouse  
Designed by Apple in California  
Assembled in Malaysia  
Model No: A1015 EMC No: 1938  
3Vdc Agency approvals inside



# iCandy

## Cinema Display

**About:** Whether you be a professional digital video editor, a desktop publishing jockey or a committed Mac gamer, Apple's breathtaking Cinema Display has everything you need to enjoy your Macintosh to the full. There's double the colour, brightness and contrast offered by a traditional CRT, the gorgeous finish epitomises everything that's great about Apple hardware designs and the simple yet oh-so clever hinge mechanism-cum-stand allows for effortless transition between viewing angles. Once you've experienced the joys of designing on a screen like this you'll never want to go back to the bad old days.

**Base model:** 20-inch model, £1,049.00

**Best model:** 23-inch, £1,599.00



# AppleTalk

Got a news story?

Then contact the *iCreate* news team by:  
email: [icreate@icreatemagazine.com](mailto:icreate@icreatemagazine.com)  
phone: 01202 299900  
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Entertainment Limited, Paragon House,  
St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS

All the latest news, products and events from the world of Macintosh computing

## Apple unveils "Microsoft Office for the rest of our lives"

New home recording studio application takes centre stage in iLife '04 update

### Those five iLife '04 applications in full

1. iTunes 4.2: the latest version of Apple's digital music jukebox software integrates with every other app in the new iLife suite
2. iPhoto 4: a new version of the photo album software features several enhancements and can now handle 25,000 images and allows photo sharing via home networks
3. iMovie 4: new features include enhanced audio editing and the ability to share movie clips via a .Mac homepage
4. iDVD 4: 20 new themes offer DVD creators greater flexibility and a DVD map gives a clear overview of an entire DVD project
5. Garage Band: the icing on the cake; a brand new program that turns any Mac into a home recording studio



According to Apple, iLife '04 is "Like Microsoft Office, but for the rest of your life"

A new version of iLife, Apple's digital lifestyle software suite, turned out to be the highlight of Steve Jobs's keynote at this year's Macworld San Francisco.

The new release features the recently announced iTunes 4.2 update, which provides access to an enhanced iTunes Music Store, new versions of iPhoto, iMovie and iDVD, and a brand new program called GarageBand, which can turn any Apple Mac into a home recording studio.

The synergy between individual applications has always been central to the iLife ethos and iLife '04 boasts unparalleled integration. Tracks created with GarageBand, for example, can be easily exported to iTunes and burnt to CD.

In a break with the convention established by previous iLife releases, neither iPhoto nor iMovie will be available as a free download.

### STRIKE UP THE GARAGEBAND

For many people, new application GarageBand will be the biggest draw of iLife '04. The

program, which Apple claims features everything a Mac user needs to turn his or her computer into a recording studio, is aimed at both amateur and professional musicians alike.

The key to GarageBand is its simple user interface, which marries the drag and drop simplicity of Apple's loop generation software, Soundtrack, with intuitive tools for recording live music via a microphone, line in port or audio interface.

**"GarageBand does for music creation what iMovie did for video and iPhoto did for photos – makes the creative process easy and affordable for everyone"**

**Apple CEO Steve Jobs**

GarageBand also features an ensemble of 50 virtual instruments that can be played using a MIDI keyboard, over 1,000 audio loops that can be used to provide a backing track for vocalists or an accompaniment for lone musicians and 200 presets for sound effects.

### MAKING CREATIVITY EASY

"GarageBand does for music creation what iMovie did for video and iPhoto did for photos – makes the creative process easy and affordable for everyone," said Apple CEO Steve Jobs. "Over half of US households have at least one member who currently plays a musical instrument, so we think GarageBand is going to find a very receptive audience," he added.

Also announced at the same time as GarageBand is a program called JamPack, an add-on which, for an extra £69, will triple the number of instruments and loops available to GarageBand users with over 2,000 loops and more than 100 additional virtual instruments.

Of the existing iApps, iPhoto features the most changes. Performance issues have been addressed, up to 25,000 photos can now be stored and photos can now be flagged with a

rating from one to five. Thanks to Apple's Rendezvous technology, digital photos can also be shared across a home network for the first time.

New features in iMovie 4 include alignment grids like the ones seen in Keynote, the ability to scrub clips in real time and the option to share movies on a .Mac Web page. Improvements have also been made to the program's audio editing abilities

iDVD 4 introduces one feature that has been

on the wish list of DVD creators for some time, namely the ability to author movies of up to two hours in length. The addition of 20 new themes also increases the options available to DVD creators and a 'DVD map' like the one present in DVD Studio Pro provides an overview of the whole project.

iLife '04 is available immediately and priced at £39. iLife '04 comes free with all new Macs and anyone who has bought a Mac since 6 January can use Apple's Up To Date scheme to buy iLife '04 for just £15. More details are available at [www.apple.com/uk/ilife](http://www.apple.com/uk/ilife)



Apple's new home recording studio app GarageBand was the subject of intense speculation before Macworld



## Apple offers JamPack

Simultaneously announced at Macworld San Francisco at the same time as GarageBand is a program called JamPack, an add-on which, for an extra £69, will triple the number of instruments and loops available to GarageBand users. JamPack includes over 2,000 loops and more than 100 additional virtual instruments.



## New iPod headphones

Apple is selling new headphones for the iPod which are aimed at people who simply don't have the right ears for the existing design. The appropriately named iPod In-Ear headphones come with three different caps so that they can adapt to fit almost any lughole and are available from the Apple Store for £29.99.



# Number crunching

A numerological take on Macworld San Francisco

9,000,000 people now using OS X as their main Operating System

25,000 The number of digital images iPhoto can now handle

10,000 native Mac OS X applications now available for you to download

1984 Steve Jobs kicks off the show with a special screening of the classic Superbowl ad to celebrate 20 years of the Mac.

50+ Software instruments included with the new iLife app GarageBand

20 years of the Apple Macintosh celebrated in style

4.2 a new version of iTunes includes a Music store update

4Gb of storage in the new iPod mini

3.6 the weight, in ounces, of the new iPod mini

2 hours of DVD encoding now available in iDVD 3

# Final Cut Express updated

New version of video editing favourite includes beefed up feature set



**A**pple has announced the first major update to video editing solution Final Cut Express.

Final Cut Express 2 comes complete with several new features and a new slogan to boot. The program is now styled by Apple as "Professional Video Editing for everyone".

The most high profile of the new features is the introduction of RT Extreme, a real-time compositing and effects engine capable of working with up to five simultaneous digital video streams and which was previously only available in Final Cut Pro, Apple's more advanced and more expensive video editing solution.

Other new features include an enhanced user interface with customisable buttons, updated real-time

colour correction tools and the ability to export projects to related Apple applications like iDVD, DVD Studio Pro and Soundtrack.

Several audio editing enhancements are also present in the new release, with multi-track audio support, real-time volume and audio filter adjustment and scoring markers for use in Soundtrack among the key additions.

"With its winning combination of powerful features such as RT Extreme and a simplified user interface, Final Cut Express 2 is the perfect product for everyone from aspiring filmmakers to educators," said Apple spokesman Rob Schoeben.

Final Cut Express 2 is available now and priced at £199 (although existing users can upgrade for £69). Check out [www.apple.com/finalcut](http://www.apple.com/finalcut) for more details about the upgrade and visit the Apple Store to place your order.

*Existing Final Cut Express customers can upgrade to the latest version of the video editing program for just £69*

# iPod's mini adventure

Apple launches smaller 4Gb iPod in five different 'flavours' at Macworld San Francisco

**A**pple has launched a new iPod that is smaller than a business card and weighs just 3.6 ounces

The iPod mini, which is aimed at younger Apple customers, boasts a 4Gb hard drive and comes in five different colours – silver, gold, pink, blue and green.

Despite sporting a redesigned anodized aluminium enclosure, the new music player is operated in exactly the same way as its larger brother and features the same display and user interface. Thanks to its diminutive size, however, the four operational buttons found just under the screen of the larger iPods have been relocated to the iPod mini's Click Wheel.

"iPod mini joins the iPod family of best-selling digital music players, offering customers the same 1,000 songs in your pocket as the original iPod in an innovative

design that's half the size. We think it's going to be pretty popular, especially with younger music lovers," said Apple boss Steve Jobs.

Rumours about a smaller iPod had been circulating for several weeks in the build up to Macworld San Francisco, with the most popular predictions focussing on a 2Gb model with a sub-\$200 price point.

Those hoping for a cheaply priced iPod were disappointed, particularly with Apple's decision to replace the 10Gb iPod with a 15Gb model. Critics were quick to point out that for only \$50 more they could now get four times the storage space of the iPod mini.

"At \$249 I can't justify the cost... for another \$50 I might as well get the 15Gb iPod," moaned one post on an online forum. "Great concept, terrible price," was the reaction of another.

The iPod mini costs £199 in the UK and \$249 in the US. For more information about the iPod mini, including availability, take a trip to [www.apple.com/ipodmini](http://www.apple.com/ipodmini)



*Little and large: at 3.6 inches high and 0.5 inches wide the new iPod mini is even smaller than the 3G iPod*

## Killer Mac gadgets

### A sideways look at third party products

**Name:** Proporta Leather iPod case  
**URL:** [www.proporta.com](http://www.proporta.com)  
**Price:** £19.95

With so much fuss surrounding the iPod at present – it was identified as the Christmas gift of 2003 by several UK newspapers – there's a booming trade in iPod accessories. One of our favourites at present is a stylish leather case made by Proporta. Apple provides a belt clip iPod holder with the 20Gb and 40Gb models, but it isn't the most robust of accessories. If you got a new iPod for Christmas or you've had one for a while then it makes sense to protect it with something more durable. The case featured here is made of high quality leather, has a tough metal clip to keep your iPod firmly in place and even has handy pockets where you can stow business cards or credit cards.



### BLAST FROM THE PAST

Things were so much better in my day...



### Flower Power iMac

The iPod mini sees the return of a choice of coloured designs to Apple's hardware for the first time in over two years. What better time to take a trip through the archives and look at what can happen when the coloured computer craze gets out of hand? Quite what was going on over at Apple headquarters when the decision was taken to unleash the Flower Power iMac in 2001 is unsure, but someone had clearly been daydreaming about Haight-Ashbury. And quite what inspired the accompanying Blue Dalmation model is anyone's guess.



### Xserve G5 announced

Apple has announced Xserve G5, the next generation release of its acclaimed server hardware. The new machines are based around the G5 chip and available in both single and dual 2.0 Ghz configurations. Xserve G5 also ships with an unlimited client version of Mac OS X server version 10.3.

### Griffin launches new iPod kit

Griffin Technology launched two new iPod accessories at Macworld San Francisco. First up is the iTalk (pictured), which is a flexible voice recorder with a powerful built-in speaker unit. The SightLight, meanwhile, is a clip on light for an iSight camera. Visit [www.griffintechology.com](http://www.griffintechology.com) for more details.



# Apple hit by consumer backlash

## Hundreds of iBook owners sign petitions calling for a class action lawsuit

**H**undreds of disgruntled Apple customers have signed online petitions calling for a class action lawsuit to be brought against the Californian Mac maker for alleged problems with the iBook.

The protest is centred around claims that the iBook has a faulty logic board that fails shortly after the official Apple warranty has expired. This flaw apparently affects the iBook's display, which can go fuzzy, display multi-coloured bars or even die completely.

One aggrieved iBook owner has even set up a Web site at [www.blackcider.com](http://www.blackcider.com) where Mac users who have experienced

similar symptoms can sign a petition for a class action lawsuit.

If online reports are to be believed, the logic board problem seems to primarily affect the most recent G3 iBooks, although there have been reports of problems with all iBook models dating back to the first 500Mhz G3 white iBook. The new iBook G4 has a different logic board and there are no reported problems, so those planning to buy a new iBook should not be unduly worried.

An Apple spokesperson declined to comment on either the petition or the plaintiffs' claims when approached by iCreate on the matter.



*iBook owners allege that a faulty logic board is causing their laptop screens to die and are planning to sue Apple*

# Mac users demand European Music Store

## Over 4,000 sign Swedish Apple fan's online petition

**E**uropean Mac users have sent a clear message to Apple that they want a European version of the iTunes Music Store by signing an online petition calling for parity with US iTunes users.

The petition is the brainchild of Swedish Mac fan Jacob Landefjord and reads thus: "We, the undersigned, feel that the opening of the iTunes-Music Store would be a great success and sell a lot of music and

iPods. We know that there are legal 'problems' to overcome and this petition is to encourage you in your work."

The petition had been online for just over a month when iCreate went to press and had attracted 4,650 signatures. You can add your signature to the cause at [www.petitiononline.com/pi4gh5h8](http://www.petitiononline.com/pi4gh5h8)

The iTunes Music Store has been a runaway success since its launch back in

April 2003. To date, over 25 million songs have been purchased from the store at a cost of 99 cents each (about 55 pence). Unfortunately for Mac users living outside the United States the store currently only accepts credit cards with a US billing address.

Reuters quotes Steve Jobs as saying that Apple wants to bring the iTunes Music Store to Europe in 2004 and various online rumours highlight May as the most likely launch date.



## The iCreate Chart

Hot tracks we'd load onto our iPod minis (if we could get hold of them)





### Microsoft intros Office 2004

Microsoft previewed a new version of Microsoft Office for Mac at Macworld San Francisco. Office 2004 for Mac contains several new features, including the Office Project Centre, which puts key documents at the user's fingertips and a new 'Notebook layout' feature for Word.



### iCreate now six-weekly

iCreate readers will be pleased to know that, due to huge demand, their favourite Mac magazine is now being published on a more regular basis. From now on, iCreate will be published every six weeks; meaning nine issues of the magazine this year. To subscribe call 0870 444 8682.

## Beware of the Panther

Comment:  
Paul Newman



Allow me to begin this month's rant with a humbling apology on behalf of the magazine you hold in your hands. Over the past few issues,

iCreate, in common with many other esteemed Macintosh publications, may have given the impression that Panther was the single greatest thing to have ever happened to the Mac platform and that all Mac users should upgrade immediately. We now realise that messages like "Panther: the most amazing thing in the world, ever" and "Upgrade now, you idiots" might have been a mite hasty.

In our excitement to herald the night of the Panther it appears that many Mac commentators, ourselves included, were mesmerised to such an extent by shiny features like Exposé and Fast User Switching that we have been rendered temporarily insane and forgotten to point out the inevitable teething problems that come with migrating to a new OS.

One such problem involved the initial release of Panther failing to recognise some FireWire drives that had previously worked perfectly well in Jaguar. On the face of it, this hardly appears to be the biggest of Mac disasters. Unfortunately, after failing to recognise the FireWire drives in question Panther then proceeded to delete their contents. Not good.

As the days went past more quirks reared their ugly heads. Software that previously ran like clockwork suddenly caused a Mac running Panther to commit hara-kiri.

### "As the days went past, more quirks raised their ugly heads"

Classic mode behaved erratically and printers mysteriously failed to work. Most curiously of all was the inexplicable way that Panther decided to add extra characters to dial-up connection passwords.

The first release of Panther is the first release of a new Operating System and is therefore bound to be not only a little unstable, but also full of holes that need to be patched up.

Still, we are nevertheless confident that those who apply due diligence to using Software Update on a regular basis and backup important files regularly will find this the most rewarding and enjoyable release of the Mac OS yet.

# 2003 Review of the Year

From the iTunes Music Store to Microsoft's cringeworthy Matrix spoof – 2003 had the lot...

## Winners and losers in 2003

**Best Apple Product:**  
Final Cut Pro 4

**Most hyped Apple product:**  
PowerMac G5

**Most talked about Apple product:**  
iPod

**Most embarrassing moment:**

Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer spoof *The Matrix*

**Most innovative use of an Apple product:**

The Neistat brothers for iMovie and

[www.ipodsdirtyscret.com](http://www.ipodsdirtyscret.com)

It's been one of the busiest and most exciting years in Apple's history, which means it's also been a thrilling time to be a Mac user. Here, in our inaugural review of the year, we take a look back at the events of the past 12 months.

### JANUARY

The New Year begins with Apple thinking both big and small, with the announcement of new 12-inch and 17-inch PowerBook G4s. Once the dust has settled, Mac users start to ask awkward questions about why the 15-inch PowerBook hasn't been updated, too. Then they stop buying them altogether. Safari, Final Cut Express



### MAY

There's a new kid on the block. Stylish, full of goodness for your digital lifestyle and with a luxury price tag.

No, we're not talking about the launch of the G5, but the advent of iCreate, a new concept in Mac magazines.



### OCTOBER

The Night of the Panther is held to celebrate the launch of OS X 10.3. Selected UK Mac resellers stay open late in order to sell the new OS to Mac diehards with nothing better to do on a Friday night.

### NOVEMBER

Microsoft chieftains Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer remind every Mac user why they've made the right choice of OS with a truly awful *Matrix* spoof at Comdex. Macboy ([www.macboy.com](http://www.macboy.com)) restores a sense of perspective to proceedings with a Steve Ballmer iPod spoof. Meanwhile, Apple also falls foul of a ruling from the UK's Independent Television Commission that the PowerMac G5 television advert makes an unsubstantiated claim – namely that the PowerMac G5 is the world's fastest personal computer.



Griffin's iTrip gadget fell foul of the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy Act back in August



The PowerBook dominated the year with 12-inch and 17-inch models launched in January and a 15-inch model following in September at AppleExpo Paris

and a 20-inch Cinema Display are also launched.

### FEBRUARY-MARCH

A quiet month by Apple's standards, although the company still manages to get beaten US presidency candidate Al Gore to join the Apple board.

### APRIL

Apple unleashes the iTunes Music Store on a world still mourning the demise of Napster. Mac users can now download digital music for 99 cents a pop. And they do – 25 million of them before the year is

### JUNE

Apple launches the PowerMac G5 with the controversial claim that it is the fastest personal computer in the world and inadvertently sets every IT nerd in the world off on a mission to prove the claim wrong. Apple also posts a recruitment ad for a Web developer after the G5's specs are accidentally leaked via the Apple Store before the official launch, raising fears about the unfortunate culprit's prospects.

### JULY-AUGUST

The Griffin iTrip, a gadget which allows iPod owners to broadcast songs to any spare FM frequency, is declared illegal under the terms of the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy Act. Those who have invested £33 in the device suddenly acquire the same status as pirate radio DJs.

### SEPTEMBER

The long-awaited 15-inch PowerBook G4 update finally surfaces at Apple Expo Paris, kickstarting a mad rush from



iCreate, a new concept in Mac magazines, was launched in May of last year



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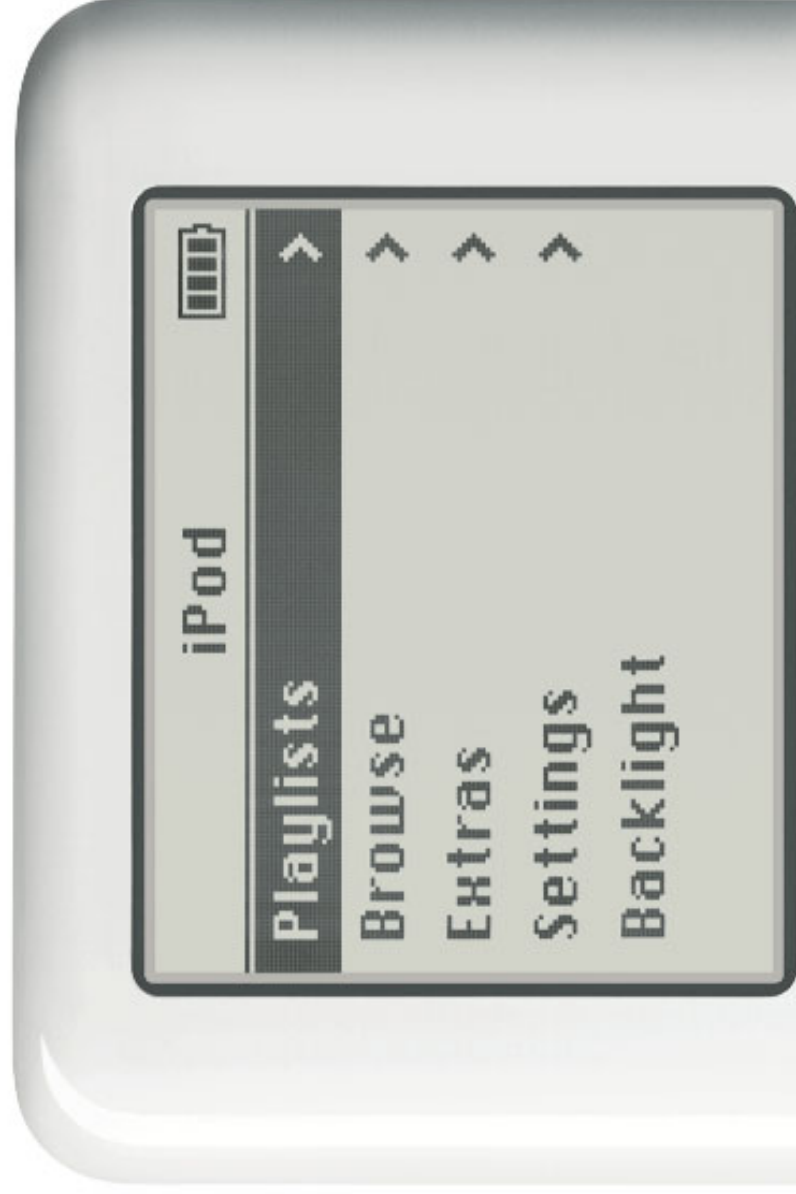
# Secrets of the iPod revealed

**Thought the iPod was just for playing MP3s? You need to think again, because the white wonder has all sorts of tricks up its sleeve, just waiting for you to find them. CLIFF JOSEPH is the man on hand to show you where to look...**

**A**h, the iPod. The ineffable, incomparable iPod. It's one of those things that makes you glad to be a Mac owner. And, yes, we know that PC users can buy the iPod now as well, but would you really want to plug the iPod's immaculate whiteness into anything less than a beautifully shiny iMac, G5 or PowerBook? In the words of the immortal Freddie Mercury – "Oh don't be so ridiculous..."

We all know that the iPod is the best portable MP3 player money can buy. However, one of the interesting things about the iPod is that it's started to branch out into other areas as well. As Apple has developed and modified the iPod, it has added new features such as contact management and the ability to play audio books. And there's a whole horde of third party developers that have joined in the fun with all sorts of interesting and imaginative accessories, ranging from leather carrying cases to media readers and voice-recording units.

So rather than go over the iPod's musical features once more, we thought we'd take a look at some of the other things you can do with it, as well as covering a few tips and tricks to help you get the most out of the unit.



## It gets your back up

The first thing to remember about the iPod is that it's basically just a very small hard disk wrapped up in a shiny white case with a few buttons and connectors attached. This means that you can do anything with an iPod that you can do with an ordinary hard disk. You can use it for backing up files, transferring files from one machine to another, and you can even install the Mac OS onto an iPod and use it to start up your Mac if anything ever goes wrong with your main hard disk. When you plug the iPod into your Mac it will automatically show up with the iPod icon displayed on your screen. Double-clicking this icon will open a window that displays the contents of the iPod's hard disk, just like any other type of storage device. You can copy files onto the iPod by dragging and dropping the files onto the iPod's icon or an iPod window just as you would do with a Zip disk or any other type of external storage device.

There is, however, one important difference between an iPod and an ordinary hard disk. When you double-click on the iPod, the window that opens will only show you a couple of folders labelled 'Calendars' and 'Contacts' (this may vary depending on the particular model of iPod that you have, and which version of iPod Software you have installed). You won't see the most important folder of all – the one that contains all your music files. ➡



**“We know that PC users can buy the iPod, but would you really want to plug the iPod’s immaculate whiteness into anything less than a shiny iMac, G5 or PowerBook?”**



# Secrets of the iPod revealed

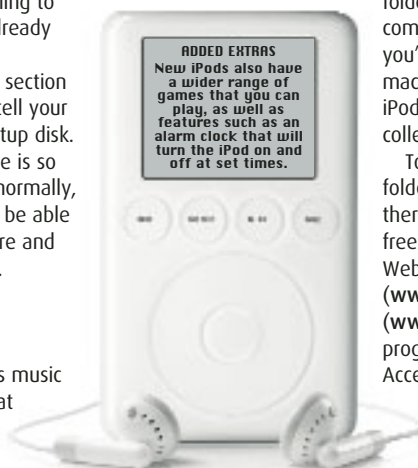
This is because the iPod's music files are stored in a special 'hidden' folder that doesn't normally show up on the Mac desktop. There are a number of reasons for this, such as preventing you from mucking up the iPod by accidentally tampering with your music files, playlists and other settings. What you see when you open the iPod window is just the disk space that is left free after you've copied all your iTunes music onto it.

To use the iPod as an emergency startup disk, you install the Mac OS onto the iPod in the same way that you install it onto any hard disk. Just insert your OS X CD-ROM and run the installer program. The iPod will be listed as one of the disks that you can install the software onto, so just select the iPod from the list and follow the usual procedure for installing the Mac OS. The only thing to watch out for is that the iPod isn't already completely full of MP3 files!

You can then use the Startup Disk section of the System Preferences panel to tell your Mac when to use the iPod as its startup disk. If your Mac's normal system software is so mucked up that the Mac can't start normally, plug the iPod in and the Mac should be able to detect the healthy system software and start up from the iPod automatically.

## That hidden folder

As we mentioned earlier, your iPod's music files are stored in a special folder that isn't normally visible when you examine the contents of the iPod.



**"The ability to store other types of files on the iPod is very handy. Store contacts and calendar information, and turn the iPod into a personal organiser"**

The main reason for this is that it's an anti-piracy measure. The idea is that you can download music from a Mac to an iPod, but not vice versa. If you could transfer files from an iPod to a Mac then you could give your friends copies of music files that they haven't paid for. And, quite rightly, Apple considers this to be copyright theft.

However, there are times when you might want to see the contents of that hidden folder for perfectly legitimate, and completely legal, reasons. For instance, if you've got both a desktop and laptop machine then you might want to use the iPod to transfer your (perfectly legal) music collection from one machine to the other.

To do this, you need to get to that hidden folder. This is actually quite easy, because there's a wide range of shareware and freeware utilities to help. Just take a look at Web sites such as VersionTracker ([www.versiontracker.com](http://www.versiontracker.com)) and iPod Lounge ([www.ipodlounge.com](http://www.ipodlounge.com)). Some of these programs, such as Escape Pod and iPod Access, are designed specifically for use with the iPod, but there are also programs such as TinkerTool, which can modify a wide range of settings both on the iPod

and on your Mac. The hidden folder is called iPod\_Control, and the way that your MP3 files are stored within that folder may appear a bit confusing, but programs such as iPod Viewer can give you an easy way to browse through your MP3 files and copy them onto your Mac.

## Calendars and contacts

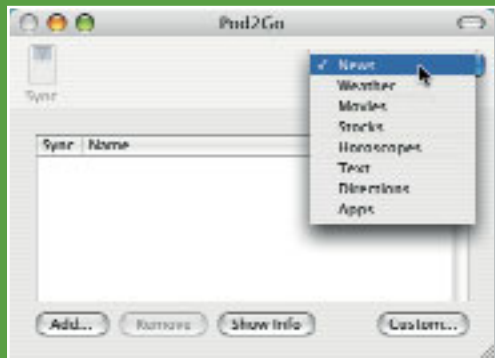
The ability to store other types of files on the iPod – in addition to your music files – is extremely handy. An obvious use is to store contacts and calendar information on there, turning the iPod into a personal organiser.

It's easy to do this. If you use Apple's Address Book and iCal programs you can also use the iSync utility to copy information from these programs straight onto your iPod. The iSync option only works with Address Book and iCal, but you can copy information from other programs onto the iPod as well.

The iPod stores contact information in a format known as 'vCard', so you can copy information onto the iPod from any program that supports the vCard format, such as the Palm Desktop software supplied with all Palm PDAs.

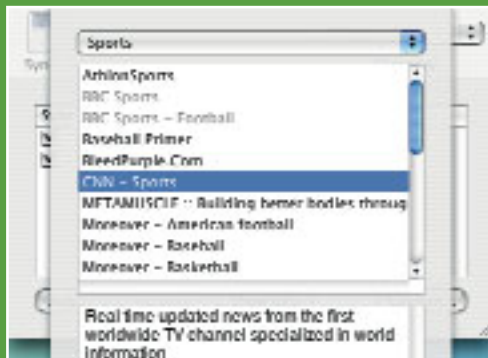
## Step-by-step: Using Pod2Go

Written by 18-year-old Kevin Wojniak, Pod2Go is an ingenious program that can download information from the Net to your iPod. Get it at [www.kainjow.com/pod2go](http://www.kainjow.com/pod2go)



### 1: Get the info

Pod2Go provides a simple pull-down menu that allows you to specify various types of information to download onto your iPod. Options include news, weather, stock price horoscopes and also 'apps', such as Apple's own Address Book and iCal.



### 2: Add to your list

Select a category, such as 'Sports', and Pod2Go presents a list of popular sports Web sites that it can download information from. Just double-click on an entry to add it to your personal list, or you can use the 'Custom' option to add your own favourite Web sites.



### 3: Read and relax

Now just press the 'Sync' button and Pod2Go will download the latest news from the Internet and transfer it straight onto your iPod, where it is stored as a series of text notes that you can read whenever you like.

# Secrets of the iPod revealed

You export your contact files in vCard format, and then drag and drop them into the 'Contacts' folder on the iPod. Any vCard files in that folder will then automatically be displayed on the iPod's screen when you select 'Contacts', from the 'Extras' option in the iPod's main menu.

Not all contact-management software supports the vCard format, though. Microsoft's Entourage, in particular, is a bit dodgy when it comes to exporting contact and calendar info. However, software libraries such as VersionTracker and iPod Lounge have a variety of utilities that can convert contact data from most programs into vCards that you can use on the iPod. Just search for 'iPod' or 'vCard'.

## Taking notes

The latest iPod models (the ones that can use the special docking unit) also have a built-in Note Reader that allows you to store and read text notes. This option isn't included in previous iPods, but if you look around on download sites, you'll discover a plentiful supply of freeware and shareware programs that can be used to store text notes and many other types of information.

There's Pod2Go, which can handle news, weather reports and share prices, and PodMail, which lets you store and read emails. There's even a program called I Speak It that uses the Mac's built-in text-to-speech capabilities to read out the contents of text documents and store them as vocal MP3 files that you can play back on the iPod.

Apple has helped out here as well. Go to [www.apple.com/applescript/ipod](http://www.apple.com/applescript/ipod) and you'll find a collection of 'AppleScripts' for the iPod. These 'scripts' are small bits of software created using the AppleScript programming language that's built into OS X. They provide a variety of options for managing text notes on the iPod, including the ability to grab text off a Web page and turn it into a note that you can store and read on the iPod. All this stuff is just a taste of the iPod software that's out there on the

## "You should get pretty good battery life out of your iPod as long as you remember to recharge it when not in use"

Internet, but we've taken a closer look at some of our favourites on p34.

In addition to all this useful software, the iPod's storage features have also encouraged several companies to come up with a number of useful hardware add-ons. These include devices such as Belkin's new Media Reader and Voice Recorder, which allow you to copy digital images, voice recordings and other files onto the iPod (see the sidebar on p31 and the reviews on p113 for more details).

## Assault on your battery

There's no doubt that cramming all this stuff into your iPod can be handy at times, but it does mean you're going to be using your iPod more than ever. And that, of course, means your battery's going to be taking quite a hammering. You should get pretty good battery life out of your iPod as long as you remember to recharge it when it's not in use. That's not always possible, though, so here are a few tips to help squeeze more life out of your battery. ➔



## Working with PCs

It's sad but true. Lots of us have a Mac at home and a PC in the office, or vice versa. So there may be times when you need to use your iPod with a PC as well as with your Mac.

This isn't too difficult, though, but there are a couple of technical details you need to be aware of first. Mac hard disks – and remember, the iPod is basically just a portable hard disk – are formatted using a system called HFS (hierarchical file system).

A PC running Windows uses a different type of formatting called FAT32. A PC can't read HFS disks, so it won't be able to read files stored on a Mac iPod. However, Macs are able to read both HFS and FAT32 disks.

So if you want to use an iPod with both types of computer you should format the iPod on the PC just as you would a Zip disk or any other type of removable storage device. Then run the PC version of the iPod Software Updater to install the iPod Software, and connect this PC-formatted iPod to either a Mac or PC and download music onto it from either type of machine. Just make sure that both the Mac and the PC have the latest version of iTunes installed (iTunes 4.2 at last count).



## iPod accessories

Your iPod can turn all manner of tricks with these accessories...

**Product: Belkin Voice Recorder**

**URL: [www.apple.com/uk/ipod](http://www.apple.com/uk/ipod)**

**Price: £39**

Clearly on a bit of a roll with iPod accessories, Belkin has come up with this handy widget that turns the iPod into a voice-recording device.



**Product: PowerPod Auto**

**URL: [www.griffintechology.com](http://www.griffintechology.com)**

**Price: £13.95**

Several companies make adaptors that let you charge your iPod from a car cigarette lighter, but this is the cheapest – available from AM Micro in the UK (01392 426473).

**Product: Dr Bott Cassette Adapter**

**URL: [www.drbott.com](http://www.drbott.com)**

**Price: £12.00**

This handy little adapter allows you to play your iPod through your car cassette player, or any other type of cassette player.



**Product: Creative Travelsound...**

**URL: <http://uk.europe.creative.com>**

**Price: £49.90**

A handy set of portable speakers with a built-in amplifier to give your iPod music a bit of a boost. Folds flat for easy carrying.



**Product: Belkin Media Reader**

**URL: [www.apple.com/uk/ipod](http://www.apple.com/uk/ipod)**

**Price: £88.99**

A really neat idea – the Media Reader allows you to connect most types of memory card to your iPod so you can transfer pictures from a digital camera and store them on the iPod.



## Secrets of the iPod revealed



### "Make sure you've got the latest iPod Software, because Apple occasionally improves its battery management"

One thing that's worth knowing is that the iPod's battery can get up to 80% of its full charge in about an hour, so you can plug it in and get a fairly good charge pretty quickly. However, that last 20% can take anything up to an additional two hours.

When it's fully charged, Apple claims that the iPod battery should last for 8-10 hours (depending on the model you have). However, this assumes that the iPod is left alone to play music continuously without you using any of the controls or the backlighting. You can't really avoid using controls such as the Forward and Back buttons, but you can certainly cut down on using the backlight.

The backlight is one of the biggest drains on the battery, but you can turn it off completely, or put it on a timer, using the 'Backlight' section of the iPod's 'Settings' menu. Rather confusingly, there's also a separate 'Backlight' command immediately beneath 'Settings' on the main menu screen. This allows you to manually turn the backlight on or off, overriding the commands in the 'Settings' menu. One option is to turn the backlight completely off, and then just use the 'Backlight' command to turn the backlight on or off only when you need it.

And while you're in the 'Settings' menu, take a look at the 'Equalizer' option. The equalizer can drain on the battery, so turning it off can save a bit of power.

One little technical oddity of the iPod is that its memory system works by loading music in chunks that are 9Mb in size. The iPod therefore works most efficiently if individual songs are less than 9Mb each. Song files larger than this cause the iPod to do extra work as it has to start swapping data around in 9Mb chunks.

### Size does matter

You can quickly check the size of your song files using iTunes on your Mac. Just open the 'Edit' menu, select 'View Options' and then click the 'Size' button with your mouse. Fortunately, most songs compressed in MP3 format will come in well below that size. A six-minute epic like 'Bohemian Rhapsody' comes in at just over 8Mb, and that's using some pretty high quality compression settings. A two-hour symphony, on the other hand, will have your iPod working overtime to keep swapping big chunks of music data in and out of its memory. ➔

# Secrets of the iPod revealed

## Pod probs

There's no denying that the iPod is pretty cool, but it's not perfect, and Apple's recently been taking some stick over one problem in particular.

A number of users have reported that after about 12-18 months, their iPod battery becomes faulty and the battery life dwindles to only one or two hours, even when fully charged.

One user in the US, by the name of Casey Neistat, contacted Apple to see if he could get the battery replaced, but was simply told that he would have to buy a new iPod. Bad move by Apple, because Casey and his brother put together their own anti-iPod Web site ([www.ipoddirtysecret.com](http://www.ipoddirtysecret.com)) and the next thing you know, the story's all over the Web and getting bad publicity for Apple in various influential magazines such as *Business Week*.

Recognising a PR disaster in the run-up to the all-important Christmas spending spree, Apple started up a new battery replacement service and also offered an extended 'AppleCare' warranty program to owners of new iPods.

So far, though, these new services are only available in the US and it's not clear if Apple UK will start its own iPod service scheme. One UK alternative is to contact Everything iPod ([www.everything-ipod.co.uk](http://www.everything-ipod.co.uk)), a vendor of spare batteries and other iPod accessories.

Finally, the battery is designed to operate best at 'room temperature' – between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit. So basically, the worst thing you can do to your iPod's battery is to listen to Beethoven's 89th Symphony with the backlight and equalizer turned on while you go jogging across the Mojave Desert.

It's also worth making sure you've got the latest version of the iPod Software installed on your iPod, because Apple occasionally makes improvements to its battery management through this software. Different models of iPod work with different versions of the iPod Software, which can be a bit confusing. However, the iPod Software can provide some useful troubleshooting options, so it's worth looking at in more detail.

## Troubleshooting tips

Look in the 'Utilities' folder within 'Applications' and you will find a folder called iPod Software Update. You may even find several folders, each garnished with a different version number.

The latest version of the iPod Software is 2.1. However, version 2.0 and onwards can only be used with the latest iPod models (the ones that can use the docking station). Older iPods can only work with iPod Software v1.3 or 1.3.1.

As a matter of routine, you should make sure that you've installed the latest version of the software that will work with your particular iPod. This will ensure that you've got the most up-to-date features, such as managing contacts, calendars and text notes.

The iPod Software also includes an important 'Restore' option that can come in useful if anything goes wrong with your iPod. Remember, the iPod

## "The iPod Software includes an important 'Restore' option that can come in useful if anything goes wrong"

is basically just a portable hard disk and it's subject to the same faults and problems that can afflict any hard disk. The 'Restore' option in the iPod Software is very much a last resort, though. There are some other things to try first.

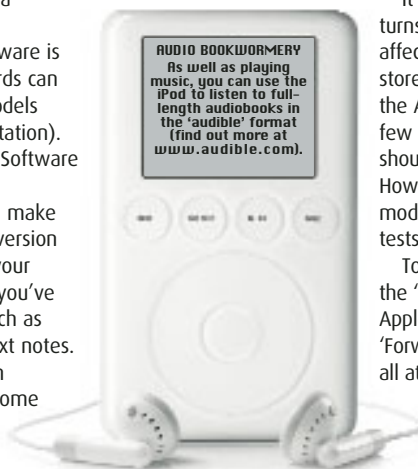
Apple discourages you from using ordinary disk tools, such as the OS X Disk Utility. Instead, the iPod has a number of troubleshooting features already built-in.

If your iPod starts going wobbly, the first thing to do is to perform a 'soft' reset by pressing the 'Menu' and 'Play' buttons together, and keeping them pressed down until the Apple logo appears on the screen.

It's called a 'soft' reset because it simply turns the iPod off and restarts it, without affecting any of the music or other files stored on it. When you do this, you will see the Apple logo appear on the screen for a few seconds. Leave the iPod alone and it should start up normally once more.

However, you can also enter two diagnostic modes that allow you to run some special tests on the iPod.

To enter 'Disk Scan' mode, do a reset with the 'Menu' and 'Play' buttons, and while the Apple logo is still on the screen, press the 'Forward', 'Back', 'Select', and 'Menu' buttons all at once. This can be a bit fiddly, as you have to press all four buttons at exactly the same time, so it may take a couple of goes to get it right. You'll know that ➡



## Step-by-step: When iPods go bad!

Here's a quick troubleshooting guide to sort out most common iPod problems



### 1: Update your iPod Software

Make sure you've got the most up-to-date version of the iPod Software for your iPod. The latest iPod models can use version 2.0 or later, while older iPods can only use version 1.3 or 1.3.1. The software can be downloaded from Apple's Web site.



### 2: Soft reset

If ever your iPod freezes up, or doesn't respond properly, a 'soft' reset can force it to shut down and then restart without affecting the iPod's contents. Just press the 'Menu' and 'Play' buttons simultaneously and hold them down until you see the Apple logo.



### 3: Disk Scan mode

If you find that this doesn't work, you can use the Disk Scan mode to perform a diagnostic test on the iPod's hard disk. Perform a reset, and while the Apple logo is on the screen, press the 'Forward', 'Back', 'Select' and 'Menu' buttons all at once.



### 4: Wipeout

If all else fails, you can always return to the iPod Software Update program once more, but this time you need to press 'Restore' to completely erase the contents of the iPod and return it to its original default settings. It's drastic, but it's better than buying a new iPod.



# Secrets of the iPod revealed

## Six of the best: iPod applications

Extend the functionality of your iPod even further with these great third party solutions



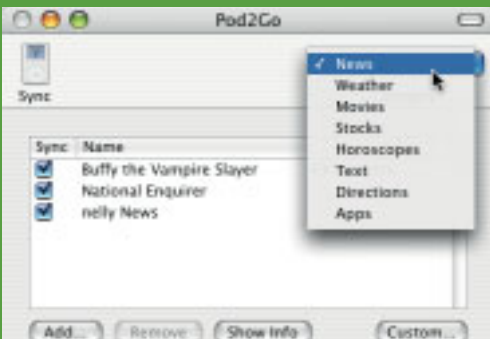
**Program: Audion 3**  
**URL: [www.panic.com](http://www.panic.com)**  
**Price: \$30**

The Audion MP3 player is a good alternative to Apple's iTunes. Its interface can be 'skinned', and there's a special iPod menu for managing playlists on your iPod.



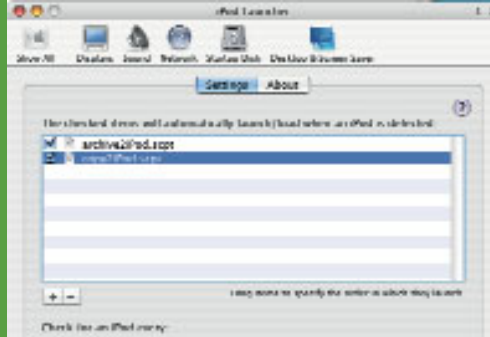
**Program: iPod It**  
**URL: [www.zapptek.com](http://www.zapptek.com)**  
**Price: \$15.00**

This little program makes it easy to transfer contact details and other information from Entourage, Mail or Address Book, onto your iPod.



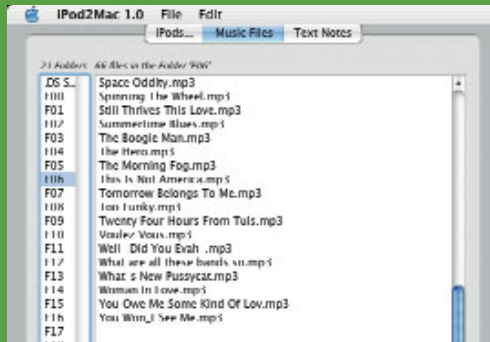
**Program: Pod2Go**  
**URL: [www.kainjow.com/pod2go](http://www.kainjow.com/pod2go)**  
**Price: Freeware**

Pod2Go allows you to select a variety of news reports, weather reports and other types of online information, and will then download it all onto your iPod.



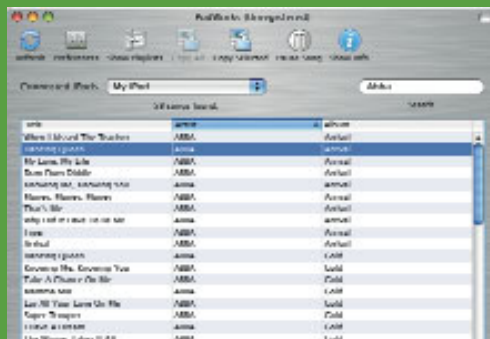
**Program: iPod Launcher**  
**URL: [www.zapptek.com](http://www.zapptek.com)**  
**Price: \$4.95**

This is neat – a program that automatically performs actions, such as launching applications or backing up files, whenever you plug your iPod into your Mac.



**Program: iPod2Mac**  
**URL: [www.daniele.ch/downloads.html](http://www.daniele.ch/downloads.html)**  
**Price: Freeware**

The interface is a little clunky, but iPod2Mac can quickly display the contents of your iPod's 'hidden' folder, allowing you to locate those MP3 files.



**Program: Podworks**  
**URL: [www.scifihifi.com/podworks](http://www.scifihifi.com/podworks)**  
**Price: \$8**

A neatly designed little program that lets you view the music files inside the 'hidden' folder on your iPod. It's a bit easier to use than iPod2Mac, but it's not free.

**“You’ll know you’ve entered Disc Scan mode when you see a picture of a rotating disk and a magnifying glass”**

you’ve entered the Disk Scan mode correctly when you see a picture of a rotating disk with a magnifying glass above it. This mode scans the iPod’s disk to locate and correct any problems that it finds. Just let it run until it’s finished, and then do another soft reset to start up again.

The second diagnostic mode is used to run a variety of tests on specific components, in addition to the hard disk. To enter this mode you perform the basic soft Reset ('Menu' and 'Play' buttons again), and then press the 'Forward', 'Back' and 'Select' buttons while the Apple logo is still on screen.

This will display a list of tests that you can use to check components such as the FireWire interface, audio subsystem, and the scrolling wheel. (There's also a hidden 'record' mode in here that can allow you to record through the iPod's headphone socket. The new Belkin Voice Recorder makes use of this feature.)

The final option is to use the 'Restore' command in the iPod Software. This is known as a 'hard' restore because it completely erases the contents of the iPod and returns it to the state it was in when it left the factory. (Note that the 'hard' restore erases data, while the 'soft' reset leaves your data intact.)

## Back to the mothership

If these tests and scans don't fix the iPod then you may have no other choice than to return it to Apple for servicing. There are a few independent repair companies that have sprung up in the US, but we haven't come across any UK companies that offer iPod repair services. If you're feeling really brave you could try and dismantle the iPod yourself to fix it, and some of the Web sites we've looked at can give you advice on this. We really don't recommend it, though, unless you feel confident that you know what you're doing.

So there you go – pages and pages of iPod information, and we barely even mentioned its basic music-playing features. It just goes to show what a wonderful little gadget the iPod is.







# Make music on your Mac

Armed with just your trusty Mac, some well-chosen software and the right kit, you can create your own music with consummate ease. **Hollin Jones** shows you how

**T**he personal computing revolution has seen more and more creative disciplines come within the reach of the home or semi-professional user.

Processes that were once the preserve of professionals are now available to anyone with a computer and a bit of money to spend. Nowhere is this change more evident than in the field of music. Where once it would have cost you thousands to record and produce your own music, you can now achieve great results with just your Mac and a few extras. Although you can't pop down to your local electronics shop for some of the kit, it's easy to get hold of online, and music technology retailers are usually very helpful.

Whether you're a beginner or have never even thought about making music on your Mac, this feature will get you started and hopefully make you realise how easy and how much fun it can be to use your Mac to write and produce your own music.

## Why the Mac is best

One of the Mac's greatest strengths is its reliability. This is due in no small part to the fact that the hardware and the Operating

System are made by the same people, so when you buy a Mac you know the two are designed to integrate. This is also the reason why the Mac has been the computer of choice for professional recording studios since the early days of computer-based sequencing and recording, and why many leading music software packages were initially developed for the Mac. In a high-pressure environment where artists may be paying thousands of pounds per day for a studio, you need a reliable computer at the heart of your system. If you've ever seen TV programmes or films where people are filmed inside recording studios, there's almost always a Mac sitting next to the mixing desk.

Traditionally, the Mac has been the weapon of choice for musicians because of its stability and power, but also because Macs come with a good selection of input and output connections as standard. Audio in and out jacks, Ethernet and, more recently, USB and FireWire connections have been built into every Mac. eMacs, iBooks and PowerBooks even have built-in microphones as standard.

Probably the most important factor in making the Mac ideal for music is that ➔



# Essential music software

Five tools no budding Mac musician can afford to be without



**Name:** Soundtrack  
**URL:** [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
**Price:** £248.99



**Name:** Reason  
**URL:** [www.propellerheads.se](http://www.propellerheads.se)  
**Price:** £299



**Software:** Cubase SL  
**URL:** [www.steinberg.net](http://www.steinberg.net)  
**Price:** £276.71

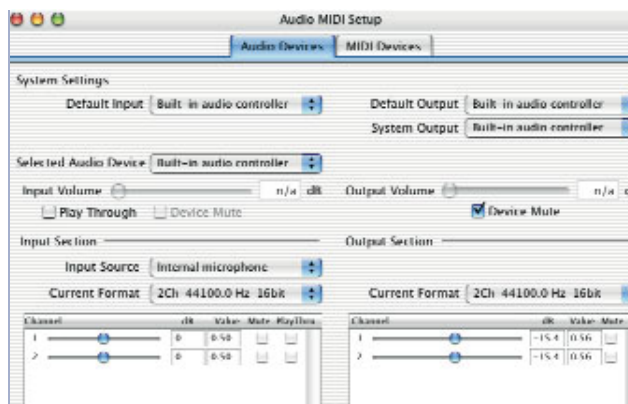


**Software:** Logic Audio Big Box  
**URL:** [www.emagic.de](http://www.emagic.de)  
**Price:** £199



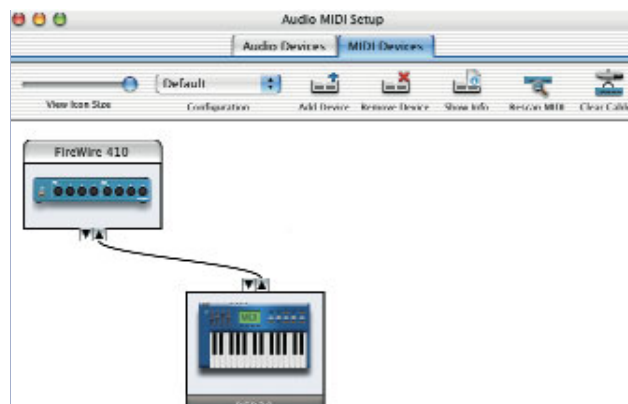
**Software:** Ableton Live  
**URL:** [www.ableton.com](http://www.ableton.com)  
**Price:** £249

## Step-by-step OS X Setting up audio and MIDI in OS X



### 1: Open 'Audio MIDI Setup'

Go to the 'Utilities' folder within the 'Applications' folder, and launch the 'Audio MIDI Setup' application. You should have already installed the drivers that came with your new soundcard.



### 2: Select your new device

With the box/card plugged in, select the 'MIDI' tab. You'll see your MIDI interface. Here we have connected the MIDI out of our keyboard to the MIDI in of the interface.

things just work. When you get into the more advanced stages of digital music, hardware setups can get quite complex. In fact, of all the things you can do with a computer, building a recording setup can, at the higher end of the scale, utilise your computer's full capacity. You can have a merry gaggle of cards, connections and so on to contend with, so it's crucial to not have to worry about the computer falling over, which is where the Mac excels.

Of course it's equally reliable with the most basic setup. With the introduction of OS X, things have got even easier and more stable to the extent that in most cases you just install the driver and the software, plug in and go. There's no worrying about what will conflict with what – invariably everything just

works. OS X also boasts new technologies to make music-making easier and more stable, including the Audio MIDI Setup program (found in the Utilities folder of your Applications folder), the AudioUnits format for virtual instruments and effects, and system-level support for audio and MIDI. Previously, MIDI support came from a third party application, now it is integrated as a core part of the OS.

Apple is well aware of its dedicated user base in the world of music production, and even recently bought Emagic, the company behind the acclaimed Logic software, in a move that confirmed its ongoing commitment to the Mac as a platform for music-making.

## What the hell is MIDI?

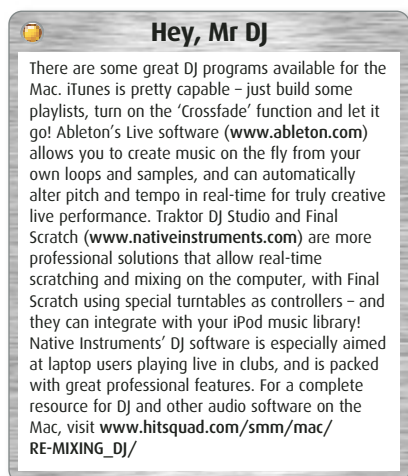
There are really two ways to make music on your Mac. The first is using MIDI, the second is using audio and software, of course, lets you use both at the same time. MIDI is information that tells a computer to play a certain note in a certain way – it's basically a set of instructions. MIDI data doesn't contain any sound, so a MIDI file can be easily edited and linked to different sound sources. In order to get MIDI information into a computer you need to have a MIDI trigger – almost always in the form of a keyboard. These range from small portable devices to full-size pianos. MIDI

trigger keyboards don't contain any sounds, they just act as a controller device for software or hardware sound modules.

Practically every keyboard available today has MIDI connections on the back, and so can be used as an input device for a piece of music software. MIDI ports, which resemble old DIN plugs, are not featured as standard on computers, so to connect the keyboard to the computer you need to go through a MIDI interface. This is a box that has a number of MIDI inputs, outputs and a USB port, and translates MIDI information through the USB cable into the Mac. MIDI is a universal format, so there are no problems with different types of MIDI or keyboard – it's all the same.

For most people a MIDI interface with two inputs and two outputs should suffice, because each port can carry up to 16 separate channels of MIDI data. However, you'll probably never use them all as you'll most likely be playing in one instrument at a time. Multiple channels and ports only really come into play when controlling external keyboards or sound modules from the computer, which is a more advanced technique.

Most USB MIDI interfaces are host-powered by the USB cable, which means fewer power supplies cluttering up your workspace. Recently some smaller MIDI keyboards, such as the Edirol PCR-30, have been released

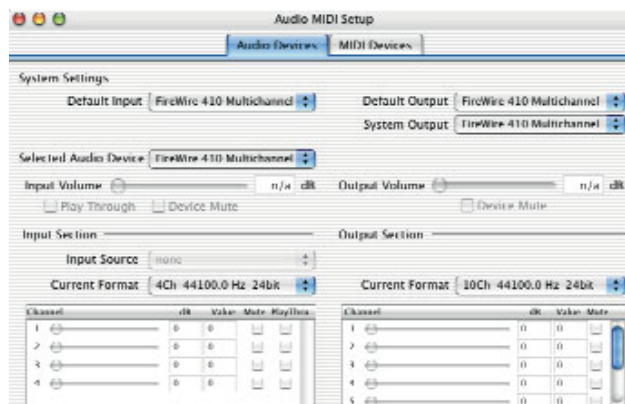


"A dedicated sound card will give you much more flexibility in recording multiple live sounds at once"



### 3: Select the new device in your sequencer

The new device will appear as an option in any audio application. The 410 has both audio and MIDI, but often you may have one device for each. We are using the 410 to route sound and MIDI in Reason.



### 4: Route all sound through the new card

Back in 'Audio MIDI Setup', choose to route all system sounds and inputs through the new soundcard. You can mix and match, using the Mac's soundcard for some types of sound and the third party card for others.

featuring a built-in MIDI interface, so the keyboard plugs straight into the computer via a USB cable, which is perfect for laptop users.

Recording live audio into your Mac throws up several options. Many Macs have an audio line in port, which is the same connection as a headphone jack on a walkman. In OS X this appears as the 'Built-in' option in most programs. By plugging a microphone or a CD/MiniDisc player into this port, you can use the Mac's built-in soundcard to record sound straight to the hard drive. You may have to use special leads or adaptors – most likely a double phono (like the outputs from a CD player) to single mini jack (like a walkman headphone socket), but these are available cheaply from most hi-fi or electronics shops. Such a cable is also useful for recording sound out of your Mac into a tape or CD recorder.

## Alternative solutions

For those Mac users that find themselves without an audio line in port, a good solution is a USB audio converter. A device such as the Griffin iMic plugs into a USB socket at one end and has a mic in and headphone out at the other end, which is the same as having them built into the Mac. Some Mac models – especially the portable range – have built-in microphones, which also appear as sound input sources.

For more professional audio recording you will need a dedicated sound card and what's known as a 'breakout box' – a box which contains a number of audio inputs and outputs in addition to the ones present on your Mac. These are often in the form of a

PCI card that lives inside your computer, or for Mac users without PCI slots (non-G3/G4/G5 tower users), companies such as Edirol, M-Audio and Digidesign have created high-quality USB and FireWire audio interfaces which are just as flexible as their PCI counterparts. A dedicated sound card will give you much more flexibility in recording multiple live sounds at once, should you want to, and will offer a higher sound quality than the built-in soundcard.

The other crucial thing you will need is a good pair of loudspeakers. As any musician will tell you, there's no point having a great setup if you can't hear the results very well. At the very least you should get a good pair of external computer speakers, such as Harmon-Kardon's Soundsticks and iSub for the Mac, or connect the Mac's sound outputs to your hi-fi. If you're a bit more serious about making music, invest in a dedicated amp and speaker setup – studio monitors start at around £100 – or, for a little more, you can get powered monitors, which are speakers containing special amplifiers, saving you more space. A good pair of headphones is also important for those late night sessions if you don't want to annoy the neighbours.

## Pick the right software

Don't get too caught up in languishing over the perfect piece of hardware – you also need to consider the various software packages available for making music on the Mac.

Some record MIDI, some record audio, and many do both. What you need will depend on what your aim is. At one end, something like

**“As software has evolved, virtual instruments have been developed to replace music hardware”**

Peak, Sound Studio or Soundhack will provide an easy way of recording and editing stereo audio tracks on your Mac. You might record a live performance or an acoustic guitar and vocal this way. A good example of a simple MIDI editor and sequencer is iPiano, from [www.cidersoftware.com/products](http://www.cidersoftware.com/products).

Falling between the basic and higher-end programs is Propellerhead's Reason. Reason is a fantastic way to get into making music on your Mac. Legendarily stable and easy to use, its interface is a virtual rack of instruments and modules into which you can load sounds or loops and then play them from your MIDI keyboard and record as you play into the built-in sequencer, and it comes with a large and expandable soundbank. Although you can't record sound directly in to it, Reason lets you use as many instruments ➔

### Hard disk recording

Hard disk recording is essentially the process of recording audio directly to a hard drive and then working with it from there. Audio recording programs such as Peak can record any kind of audio input to a hard drive, so you could, for example, hook up your stereo to your Mac, use Peak to record your vinyl collection to the hard drive, and then use iTunes to convert it to MP3. With a microphone plugged in you could record interviews or a live gig, or ambient sound for use in a film project, all to your hard drive. Because audio is stored digitally you can duplicate, edit and manipulate it very easily and always keep a backup copy. Digital audio takes up much less space than digital video, so modern hard drives can store hours of it. Find out how to get started with Peak in our tutorial, starting on page 96.

# Essential kit

## The coolest kit to help you on your musical way



**Product:** Edirol PCR-50

**URL:** [www.edirol.com](http://www.edirol.com)

**Price:** £199

The PCR-50 can plug directly into your Mac using USB but also features MIDI in and out ports. It has a 49 note keyboard and a host of programmable controller knobs. Stylish and lightweight, it will fulfil all your MIDI needs.

**Product:** Mobile Pre USB

**URL:** [www.m-audio.com](http://www.m-audio.com)

**Price:** £149

The Mobile Pre is a computer-powered USB audio interface with built-in two-channel mic/instrument preamps. Taking power from the USB connection eliminates the need for an external power supply, making it ideal for field recording and other laptop-based mobile recording situations.



**Product:** iMic

**URL:** [www.griffintech.com](http://www.griffintech.com)

**Price:** £30

The iMic audio adapter is a USB device that adds a stereo input and output to your Mac. This allows the connection of virtually any microphone or sound input device to any Mac with a USB port.



**Product:** Edirol MA-10A

**URL:** [www.edirol.com](http://www.edirol.com)

**Price:** £98.99

The MA-10A's are good entry-level speakers that will provide detailed audio playback for monitoring your music. They are active, meaning they contain their own amplifiers, so they just plug straight into your computer or desk with no additional hardware.



**Product:** Sennheiser HD202

**URL:** [www.sennheiser.com](http://www.sennheiser.com)

**Price:** £19.95

A good pair of headphones is essential for making music. The HD 202 closed, dynamic hi-fi stereo headphones are the ideal partner for DJs and powerful modern music, providing good insulation against ambient noise and a vivid, crisp bass response.



**Product:** Shure SM57

**URL:** [www.shure.com](http://www.shure.com)

**Price:** £79.50

The Shure SM57 unidirectional dynamic microphone is exceptional when it comes to musical instrument pickup or for vocals. In the studio, it is excellent for recording drums, guitar, and woodwinds. musical instruments or vocals, the SM57 is a very popular choice for professional performers.



as your Mac's processor can handle and it comes with some cool synths and drum loops. You'll be amazed at how easy it is to start making great music very quickly with Reason. You can even export your finished track to an audio file for burning to CD.

At the higher end of the scale are what are known as DAWs – Digital Audio Workstations. These software packages are more professional and allow you to record and edit MIDI and audio with great power and precision. They include Cubase SX from Steinberg, Logic Audio from Emagic, Digital Performer from MOTU and Pro Tools from Digidesign. All native to OS X, they come in different flavours depending on your needs. Most manufacturers offer entry-level and pro versions of their software. At the heart of most of them is a sequencer – a sort of timeline for putting a track together. Basically you layer up instruments and sounds in a certain order to make a track. The great advantage of these packages is the power and flexibility they give you in terms of recording and editing your music, and their support for software instruments and effects.

As software has evolved, many virtual instruments and effects have been developed to replace music hardware. Instruments and effects that would once have existed as big metal boxes now come on a CD and live on your Mac. The most common format for these 'softsynths' and 'effects plug-ins' is VST – Virtual Studio Technology. They behave exactly as their hardware equivalents would, except they take up no space, and because they are in software form they can be added to, upgraded and manipulated easily. Need a really great Hammond organ or a Fender Rhodes sound? The real instruments are cumbersome, rare and expensive, but a softsynth version sounds the same and generally costs around a £100. Most softsynths come with a library of sounds, so you're getting a lot of instruments for your money.

## Unplugged

You might want to use your Mac for recording acoustic sounds as well as using MIDI and electronic instruments. This is



## Jargon Buster

**MIDI** – Musical Instrument Digital Interface. This is the type of language that electronic instruments and computers use to talk to each other.

**Softsynth** – a virtual instrument, a software version of a real instrument that can be played on a computer via MIDI from a keyboard.

**Breakout Box** – a soundcard or FireWire/USB box with multiple audio in and out connections. May also have MIDI and optical/digital connections.

**Digital Audio** – audio existing on a hard drive, Minidisc or CD, as opposed to analogue audio on a tape.

**DAW** – Digital Audio Workstation. A piece of software such as Cubase or Logic which lets you record and edit both audio and MIDI on your computer, and also supports softsynths and virtual effects.

**Routing** – the process of sending audio or MIDI signals to and from particular places to achieve specific results. For example, routing the audio from Cubase out through a mixing desk.

**To really get the most out of the music you've slaved over, treat yourself to some cool speakers like JBL's Creatures, £95 from the Apple Store**

fairly straightforward, too. Essentially you just need a good microphone and software that can record your Mac's audio inputs. A basic setup might use a simple stereo mic plugged into the Mac's line input, and Sound Studio recording the sound. A more professional setup would involve a studio mic plugged into a small mixing desk (only around £80) and the desk's outputs running into the inputs of a soundcard or a USB audio interface. The signal could be recorded by Logic or Cubase, which can play back any pre-recorded audio or MIDI to you as it is recording, allowing you to hear yourself playing over your track as you record. It's also worth mentioning Apple's new home recording application GarageBand here (see page 18 for more), which was sadly launched just after the deadline for this section.

When recording anything through a microphone you must monitor through headphones, because any sound in the room is picked up. Having a small mixing desk will afford you a great deal of flexibility when recording live sound and will almost certainly prove to be a lifesaver if you experience latency or feedback problems. The Mac is essentially a blank canvas for you to record onto, and will not affect your sound in any way, unless you tell it to. Mixing electronic and acoustic sounds is easy, because software treats all sounds as equal in the mixer, meaning that what you hear is what you get.

## The Mac hit parade

There's an awful lot to say about making music on a Mac, and there's only been room to scratch the surface here. For musicians the Mac has always been a great creative tool, and OS X is the icing on the cake as far as stability and power are concerned. Over the years, music software for the Mac has been refined and enhanced to the point where it's now more powerful and easier to use than ever. Whether you're a beginner with an iBook or have a G5, there's a music-making solution that's right for you. Applications like Soundtrack and Reason are great ways to get into music-making and you'll be amazed with what you can produce after only a couple of hours of experimentation. You don't have to be a trained musician – many successful artists aren't – and whether you want to record your guitar noodlings or write the soundtrack to a film, it's a lot easier than you might imagine. Making music on your Mac can really unlock its creative power and if you already own one, you need only spend around £350 to create a music-making setup. It's a small price to pay to discover how cool it is to be able to make your own music on your Mac.



# Tutorials

Inspirational instruction for the creative Mac user



**iCreate Tutorial Contents**

local disks

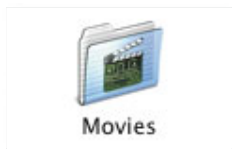
Name	Date Modified
<b>iMovie</b>	Today, 19:47
044 Creating a complete iMovie	Today, 19:32
046 Rapid-fire editing in iMovie	Today, 19:33
048 Soundtracks and final editing	Today, 19:33
050 Adding titles and credits	Today, 19:34
<b>iDVD</b>	Today, 19:57
052 Create customised iDVD interfaces	Today, 19:34
<b>iTunes</b>	Today, 19:47
056 Get the most from the iTunes Equalizer	Today, 19:35
058 Using iTunes plug-ins	Today, 19:35
<b>iPhoto</b>	Today, 19:47
060 Send photos as email attachments	Today, 19:36
<b>iChat AV</b>	Today, 19:47
062 The iChat AV interface explained	Today, 19:36
064 Your first video chat	Today, 19:37
<b>iCal</b>	Today, 19:47
066 Discover the new features in iCal 1.5.1	Today, 19:38
068 Linking a Palm device using iSync	Today, 19:38
<b>Panther</b>	Today, 19:47
070 Fast user switching explained	Today, 19:39
072 Creating multi-session discs	Today, 19:40
074 Working with files in Panther	Today, 19:40
076 Protect your Mac with Intego's Net Barrier	Today, 19:41
078 Working with the Trash	Today, 19:41
<b>Final Cut Express</b>	Today, 19:48
086 Transfer a VHS tape to digital video	Today, 19:47
088 Using multiple layers of video	Today, 19:47
<b>Reason</b>	Today, 19:49
092 Create a simple movie soundtrack	Today, 19:47
<b>Peak LE</b>	Today, 19:50
096 Recording audio to your Mac with Peak	Today, 19:47
<b>Photoshop Elements</b>	Today, 19:51
102 Repair an old photo in Elements	Today, 19:47
104 Design your own inlay cards	Today, 19:47

11 of 34 selected, 36.62 GB available



# Tutorial: Creating a complete iMovie

With iMovie 4 now imminent, it's time to assemble everything you've learnt in iMovie 3 and create a complete movie from scratch in under two hours.



**Aim of this section**  
Task: Create a complete movie using all of iMovie's cool features  
**Difficulty:** Intermediate  
**Time needed:** 2 hours



What's great about iMovie is that it allows novice filmmakers and digital directors to take raw footage and craft it into a professional piece of work in very little time. Apple is proud of its high profile iMovie users, such as skateboarder Tony Hawk and singer Sheryl Crow, who can shoot movies all day while they are out on events, then come home, edit the footage and upload it to their Web site in minutes.

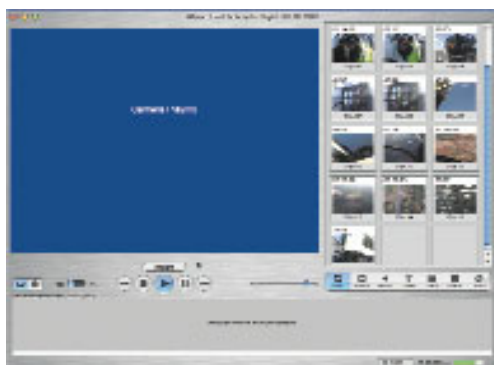
But iMovie's best feature is also its Achilles heel. Although the program is easy to learn, the lack of depth is a problem as you move from being a beginner to an intermediate user. Fortunately, Apple's Final Cut Express 2 is on hand to lead you on to even greater filmmaking heights and, for the really brave, the professional Final Cut Pro offers unlimited performance and true cutting-edge moviemaking technology.

This tutorial, then, is a summary of everything we have learnt so far, from importing footage and editing your clips, to building your movie stage by stage, adding effects, a cool soundtrack and even snazzy titles and a credit sequence. The movie being created on the following six pages started life as a series of video clips and a single song taken from the *Kill Bill* movie soundtrack. Contrary to the order in which many iMovie users build up their projects, this example was created from the audio track up, with every editing decision and choice of clips dictated by the rhythm of the track. It's not a method that always works, but in this case it does.

We've also tried to include as many of the tricks of the trade and shortcuts we have learnt along the way. Think of it as the last triumphant roar of iMovie 3 before we get into exploring iMovie 4 and all its new and exciting features in next issue...



## Step-by-step iMovie Importing and editing your clips



### 1: Import the clips into iMovie

The first step when creating your complete film is to connect up your digital camcorder via a FireWire cable and click 'import' to save the footage in iMovie.



### 2: Arrange your clips in the pane

Once you click on 'import' your clip pane will start to populate with clips of various lengths. You can arrange these by using the mouse.



### 3: Rename your clips

It's a good idea to name each clip so that you can quickly find the one you need. Double-click on the clip name and then type into the box as shown.



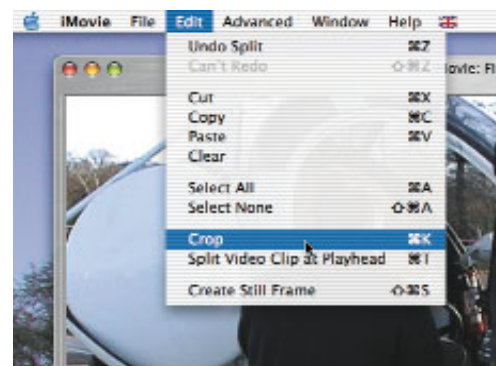
### 1: The editing process begins...

Now the real fun begins as you start editing down your clips for use in the movie. One way of doing this is to crop both ends from a clip and keep the middle.



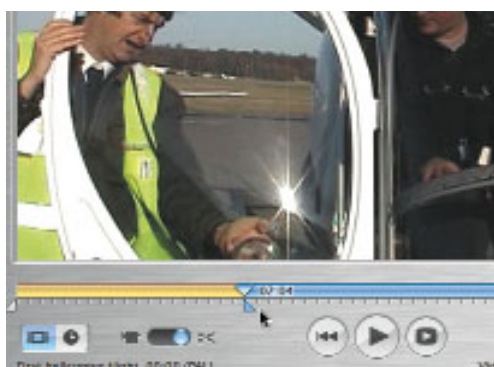
### 2: Choose what you want to keep

To do this, click on a clip in the pane, then select the beginning and end of the footage you want to keep using the small triangular icons as shown.



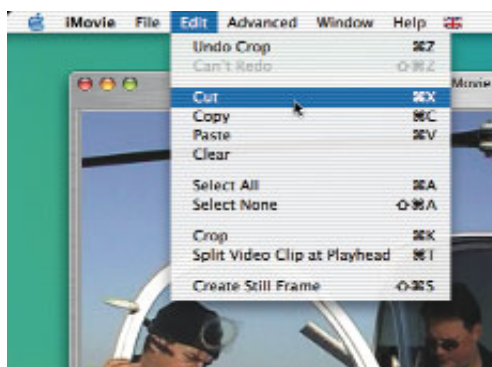
### 3: Crop the clips quickly and easily

With the middle portion of your clip selected (the yellow colour in the timeline is the part that will remain) choose the 'Crop' option from the Edit menu.



### 1: Alternative editing techniques

Another quick and easy way to edit down some of your clips is to cut out chunks from the beginning or end and leave the rest intact. First highlight the clip.



### 2: Using the 'Cut' command

Drag in the triangular icons found below the timeline of the clip. Mark out the area you want to remove in yellow, then select 'Cut' from the Edit menu.



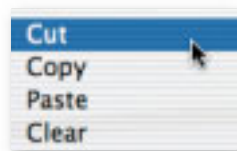
### 3: Unwanted footage is removed

The 'Cut' command now removes the footage between the two triangular icons and puts it into the trash. Your clip now begins from the new position.



# Tutorial: Rapid-fire editing in iMovie

Yes it can be done! Many thought it impossible to create clips shorter than one second in iMovie, but we show you how...



## Aim of this section

**Task:** Editing and adding clips to your movie

**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Time needed:** 35 minutes



The more confident you get with the editing tools in iMovie, the more you begin to notice shortcuts and sneaky ways to achieve stunning results.

A good example is the restriction placed on clip duration. Double-click on a movie clip and you'll see that you can manually change the length of the clip, but not to less than one second. This is obviously very annoying when your soundtrack demands quick-fire editing to stay in time with the music.

Fortunately, you can get around this by using the handy 'Edit Clip at Playhead' command to resize the clip to an even smaller runtime. By joining many of these clips together you can create Hollywood-style bursts of poignant images that will dazzle your viewers.



## Step-by-step iMovie Adding clips to your Clip Viewer



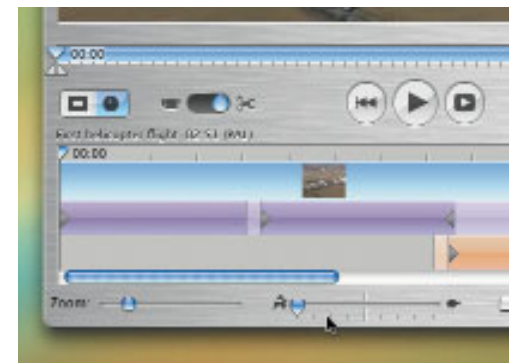
### 1: Dragging clips into the movie

With your preliminary editing and naming completed, it's time to start adding your clips to the Clip Viewer.



### 2: Build up your storyline

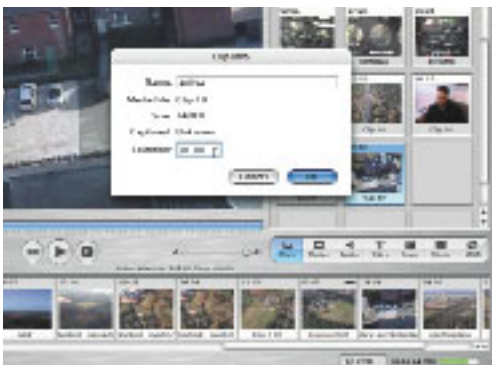
Adding more clips increases the duration of the movie and begins to create the storyline of the film.



### 3: Set the speed level of the clip

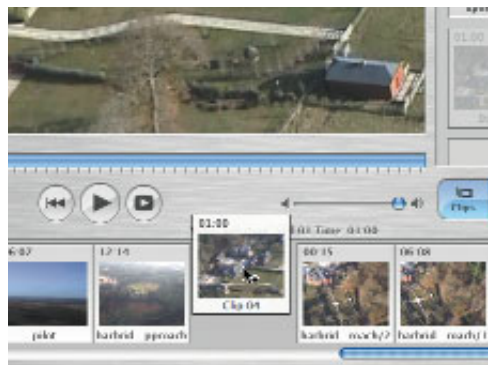
Some of the longer clips in this movie work better if they are sped up using the control shown above.

## Step-by-step iMovie Create rapid-fire editing cuts



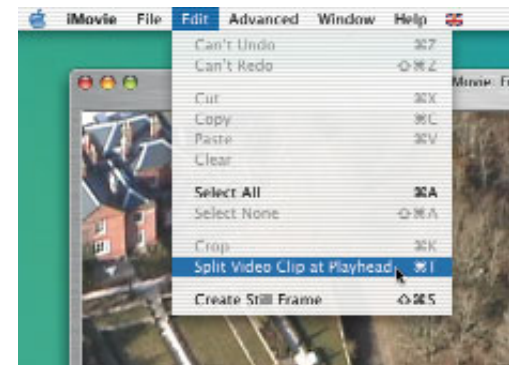
### 1: The shortest clips possible

iMovie doesn't allow you to create clips smaller than one second, but there is a way around this.



### 2: Drag in the first clip to be snipped

Choose the first clip you want in the quick-fire sequence and drag it into the Clip Viewer.



### 3: Split the clip in two

Position the Playhead halfway through the clip and use the above command to split it into two pieces.

## The movie begins to take shape

**View clips in full screen mode**  
**Just like in a cinema**  
 This icon is a variation on the standard 'Play' button. Press it and instead of showing the movie or single clip in the main window you'll see it displayed in full screen mode.

**Playhead**  
**Precision editing starts here**  
 The key to successful iMovie editing is judicious use of the Playhead, which is used to stop the action at the exact frame you want to cut. You can use the mouse to control the Playhead, but we prefer the Griffin Powermate for its precision action (and blue glow).

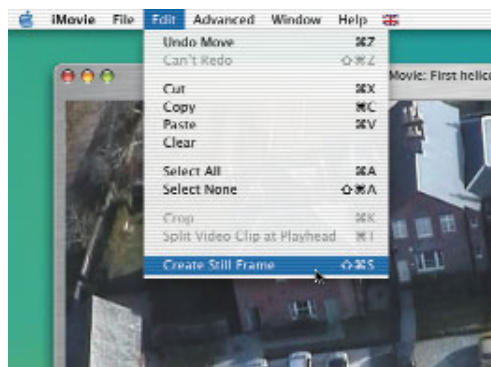
**Clips Pane**  
**Complete control**  
 This panel is the heart of iMovie because it controls the input of any media. Digital photos and music can be dragged from their respective iApps and you also have your full palette of video clips.

**Clip information**  
**The information is always at hand**  
 One of the great features in iMovie is the way any digital video imported is automatically tagged with the details of the date when it was shot as well as its duration.



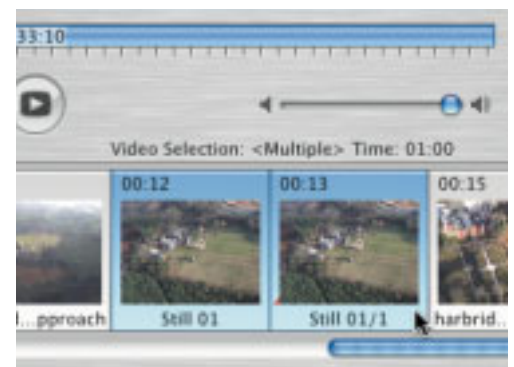
### 4: New clips are less than one second

The two new clips which have been created are now both less than one second. Delete one and repeat.



### 5: Editing with still frames

The same trick works when creating fast cuts using still frames. Apply the above option to a frame.



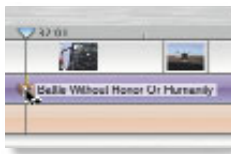
### 6: Split the still as required

Position the Playhead mid-way through and use the 'Split Clip' command (step 3). Now delete one.



# Tutorial: Soundtracks and final editing

Nothing brings a movie to life more than an appropriate soundtrack – be it thunderous or subtle. iMovie's two audio channels can be combined to achieve professional quality results

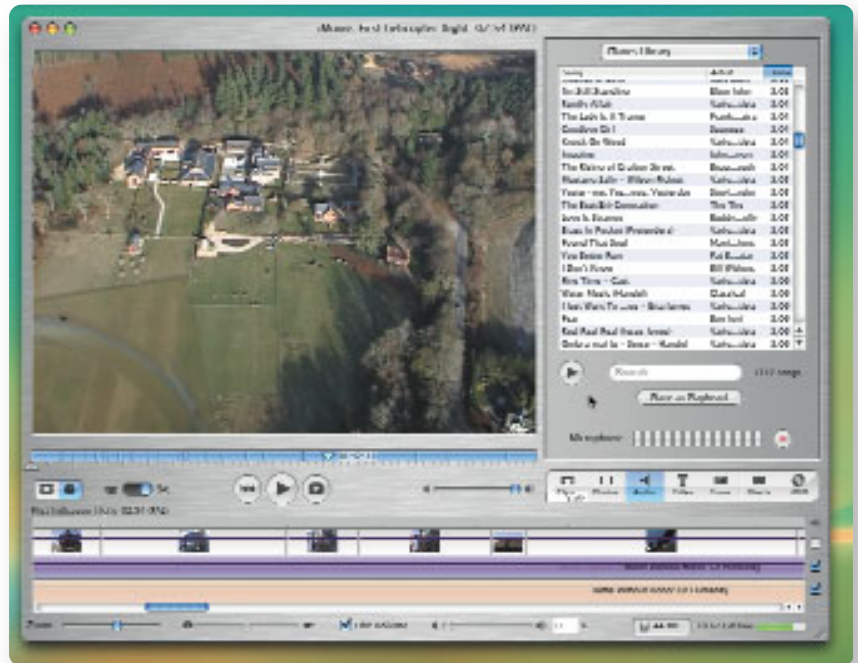


**Aim of this section**  
**Task:** Importing multiple soundtracks  
**Difficulty:** Beginner to Intermediate  
**Time needed:** 45 minutes



There are no set rules which determine in what order you should create your film. The most common way is to start with the moving images and then add musical accompaniment once the movie has been completed. Often, however, the exact opposite can inspire the direction and editing style of the whole project.

For the 'Up, up and away' movie used in this tutorial we took the unusual step of creating and editing the whole movie based on a single piece of music imported before anything else. In this case, 'Battle Without Honor' or 'Humanity' from the *Kill Bill* movie soundtrack. This dictated everything from where clips were placed to the pace of the editing and, of course, the duration of the movie we created.

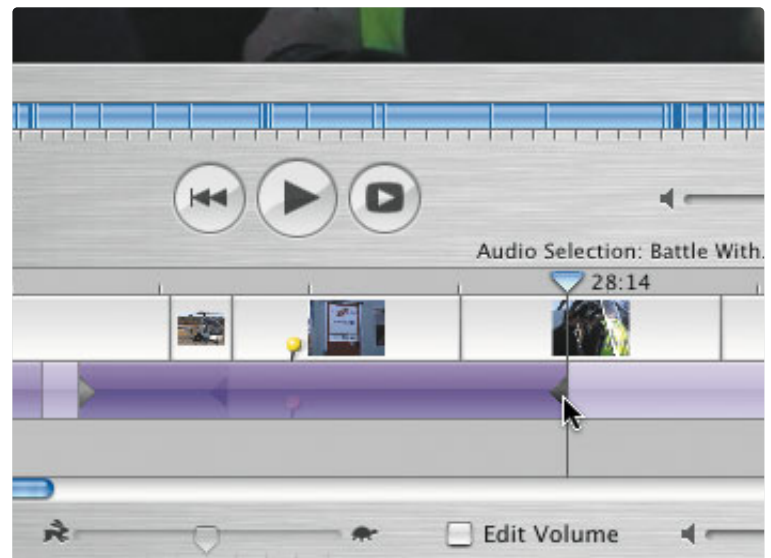


## Step-by-step iMovie Adding multiple soundtracks

### 1: Choose and import your song



### 2: Adjusting the start and run times



To add your first soundtrack, ensure the 'clock' icon has been selected below the Timeline and then click on the 'Audio' tab to bring up your iTunes music database. Scroll through the songs to find the one you want to import, highlight it with the mouse and drag it down to the Timeline Viewer as shown.

Your song will now appear in one of the two audio channels (top is purple, bottom is orange). By clicking and dragging the arrows at either end of the track you can shorten the runtime of the track to only play a certain portion. You can also move the entire song within the Timeline Viewer by dragging it.




## The joy of multiple soundtracks

**Viewers**

**The business end**

The picture frame icon to the left denotes the Clip Viewer where movie clips are given prominence in the early movie-building phase. The clock icon on the right takes you to the Timeline Viewer where the video is shrunk to allow work on the two spare audio channels.




**Timeline zoom slider**


**Getting a better view of the project**

Once you click through to the Timeline Viewer using the clock-like icon you can view both the movie clips and the two audio tracks. Use the slider shown here to control the magnification.

**I can't see!**

**Menu adjustments**

Not only can you sort the three columns in the iTunes Library, but you can also control the width of the columns. Click on the dividing lines between Song, Artist and Time until the cursor changes and then click and drag to the desired width.



**Placing audio**

**A very useful button**

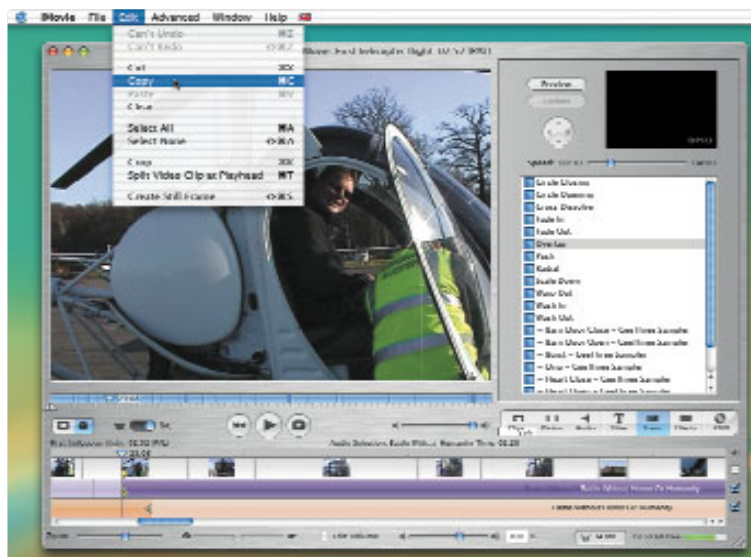
Many iMovie users are frustrated by the random way that songs are imported into the Timeline Viewer. This button allows you to precision-place songs. Use the Playhead to set where you want the song to begin, click on the track in the iTunes Library and then press the 'Place at Playhead' button

**On or off**

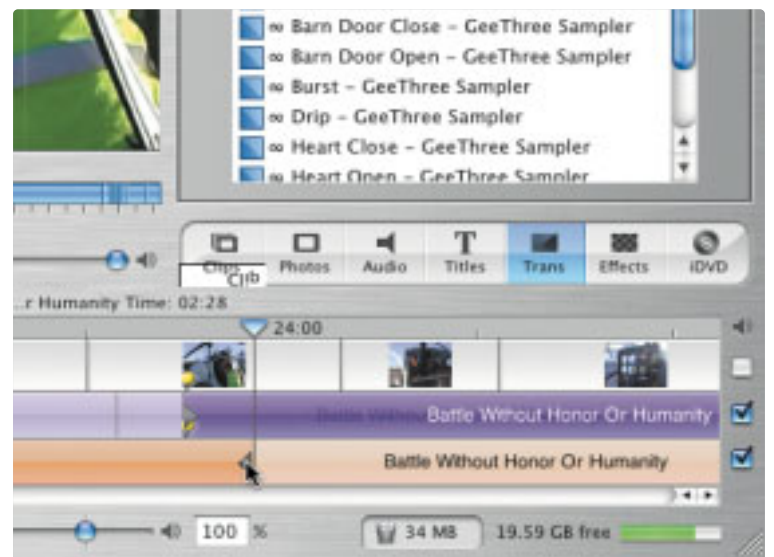
**Audio channels**

These two tick boxes allow you to select whether you can hear the sound from either audio channel. The third box above them controls the sound for the main video track.

### 3: Build up your soundtrack



### 4: Duplicating soundtracks



You can now drag more songs into either audio channel to build up a complete soundtrack for your movie. In this tutorial, we have chosen a single song for the entire duration, but through judicious use of the 'Copy' and 'Paste' commands we have extended the intro to the song so that we can fit in more video clips.

As you can see, in this example we have copied the same song into both audio channels, which means that we can manipulate the lengths and position of each track so that the opening guitar riffs last 10-20 seconds longer. You can also overlap sound effects and songs in the same way. Experiment for yourself.

# Tutorial: Adding titles and credits

iMovie comes with a good selection of title effects, but nothing beats a completely bespoke solution in, say, Adobe Photoshop. Here we show you how to create title cards



**Aim of this section**  
**Task:** Creating and adding new title sequences  
**Difficulty:** Intermediate  
**Time needed:** 1 hour

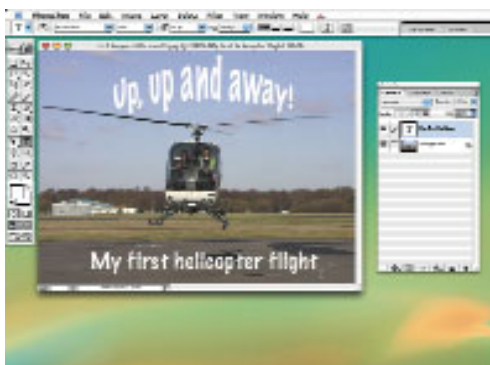


You have to upgrade to Final Cut Express 2 or, for the really adventurous, Final Cut Pro to really see some cutting-edge title and credit sequences, but fortunately the simple flexibility of iMovie still means that you can venture beyond the out-of-the-box solutions and come up with some more creative and individual solutions.

In this tutorial we are creating three graphical files that can be blended together in iMovie to give the impression of animation. Photoshop can deliver graphics far in advance of those on offer in iMovie and so it makes sense to combine the power of the two programs. The final stage in creating a movie is to add a fitting sequence of credits for those involved in the film using one of iMovie's titles or perhaps more Photoshop work.



## Step-by-step iMovie Creating and importing a title sequence



### 1: Create a title card in Photoshop

No need to stick with just iMovie's standard titles when you can pop into Adobe Photoshop or Elements and create your own completely flexible title cards.



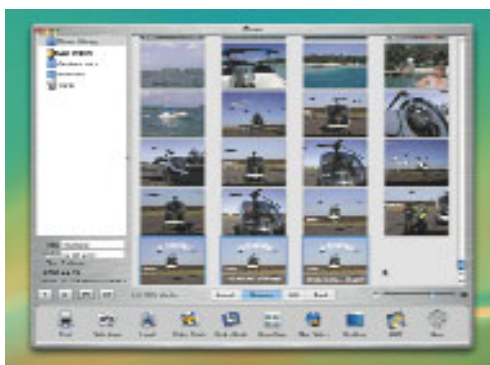
### 2: Add more layers – be creative!

Here we can see the three simple title cards created for the title sequence of this movie. The words were added using Photoshop's 'Text' tool.



### 3: Flatten the images

Remember to use the 'Flatten Image' command in the 'Layer' menu for each slide so that they can be saved out in JPEG format to import into iMovie.



### 4: The iPhoto option

If you want your title cards to appear in the 'Photos' pane in iMovie, you will first need to 'Import' them into iPhoto, then restart iMovie.



### 5: Ignoring the iPhoto option

Or you can simply open up iMovie and select 'Import' from the 'File' menu, select the title cards and click 'Open' to bring them straight to the Clip Pane.



### 6: Integrate into your movie

Finally, drag the title cards into the Clip Viewer and employ a 'Cross Dissolve' transition between them to create the effect of animated text.



**Knowledge Base: Resolution**

**Keep an eye on the size**

When working in Photoshop Elements, it's important to think about the destination of the images you edit. If you're working for print, a larger resolution such as 300 dpi will give enough detail for a printer to do your image justice. However, 300 dpi is not required when creating graphics for DVD interfaces. Screen resolution is only 72 dpi, so the files in this tutorial are surprisingly small.

**Knowledge Base: Lovely layers**

**Preserve the original**

We'll create a chiselled stone graphic button using Photoshop Elements' 'Layer Styles' and 'Layer Blend' modes. The beauty of working in layers is that they offer the freedom to experiment with a variety of techniques and effects without losing the original graphics.

**Style Settings**

**Changing angles**

This window allows you to edit the 'Layer Style'. With a 'Bevelled' effect, you can change the angle of the light and make the bevel direction go down or up.

**Layer Styles palette**

**Style it up**

The 'Layer Styles' palette offers a huge variety of effects to augment your button's text. In addition to bevels, there's a huge selection of shadows and glows.

**Layer Blends**

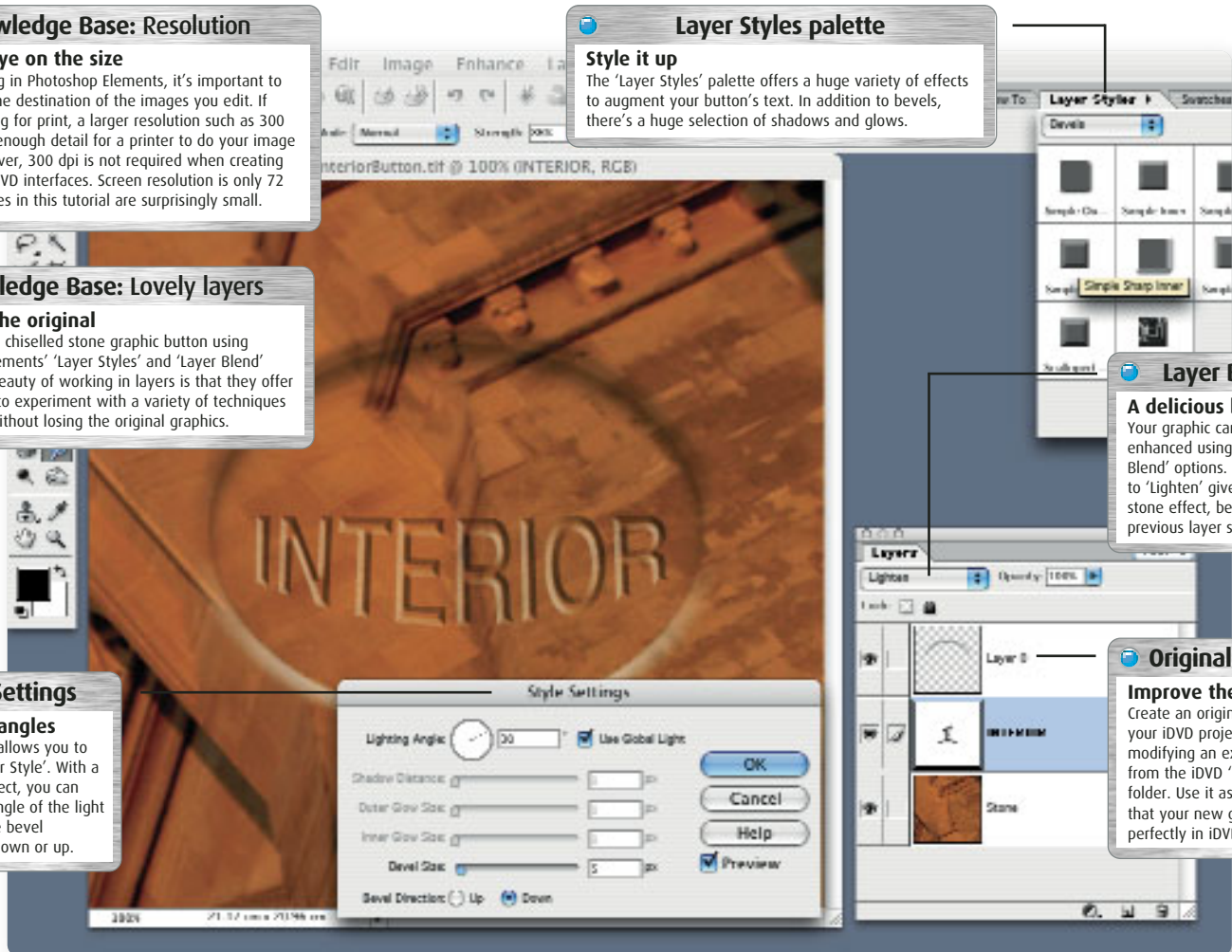
**A delicious blend**

Your graphic can be greatly enhanced using the 'Layer Blend' options. Setting the text to 'Lighten' gives a chiselled in stone effect, because the previous layer shows through.

**Original button**

**Improve the original**

Create an original button for your iDVD project by modifying an existing graphic from the iDVD 'Resources' folder. Use it as a guide so that your new graphic aligns perfectly in iDVD.



# Tutorial: Create customised iDVD interfaces

Want to make a unique DVD interface without forking out for DVD Studio Pro? We show you how to give iDVD 3's interface a makeover, with a little help from Photoshop Elements



**Aims of this section**  
**Task:** Create and export buttons from Photoshop Elements to iDVD 3  
**Difficulty:** Advanced  
**Time needed:** 60 minutes

iDVD 3 is a great application for quickly getting your movies and photos onto a lovely shiny DVD. In fact, it's so easy to author a DVD with a fully functioning interface that people have started swapping discs covering everything from weddings to trips to the seaside.

Although you can choose from iDVD's variety of themed menus and button shapes, there's only so much you can do with these to differentiate your DVD from that of the next person. You'll soon get tired of using the default 'Wedding' theme that comes with iDVD and it's nice to customise your DVD with a unique look. But iDVD 3 isn't a professional package, so it's not that easy to create a custom interface with it. iDVD is designed for domestic use and doesn't expect you to do much more than shuffle the default themes and button shapes around. This is reflected in the low price of iDVD when compared to the cost of the more versatile DVD Studio Pro 2.

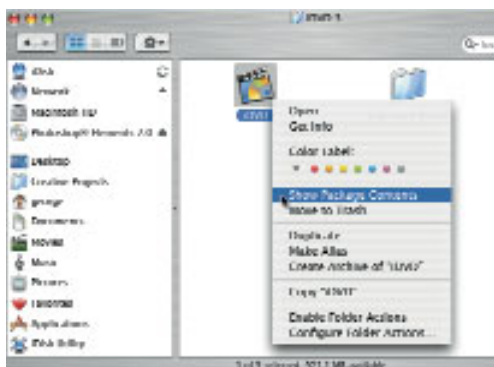
However, we know that you want to make the most from the applications that came with your Mac, so we've come up with a few ways to give your interface the edge when it comes to individuality.

There are several ways to make your interface unique. If you create your own button graphics and change the background theme image there's no danger of your DVD looking like anyone else's. To do this, though, you'll need to step away from iDVD and use Photoshop Elements. We'll create a customised button icon using the 'Layer Styles' palette in Elements, take a detour through iPhoto and add the graphic to iDVD in the second half of this tutorial.

We're creating an interface for a DVD on the historic and beautiful Cathedral of St. Alban's. There's not much in the iDVD 3 themes folder that would suit this subject matter, so stand by to rummage under iDVD 3's bonnet and get customising. All of the images you need to follow the tutorial can be found on this issue's CD.

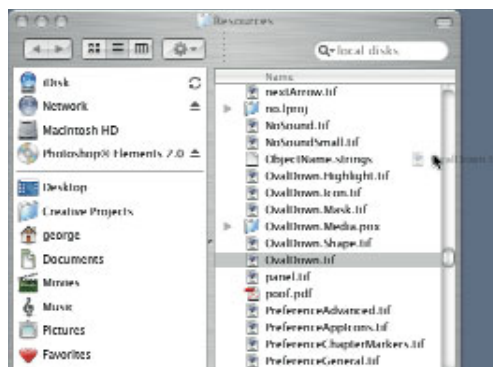


## Step-by-step iDVD 3 Customising iDVD 3's interface



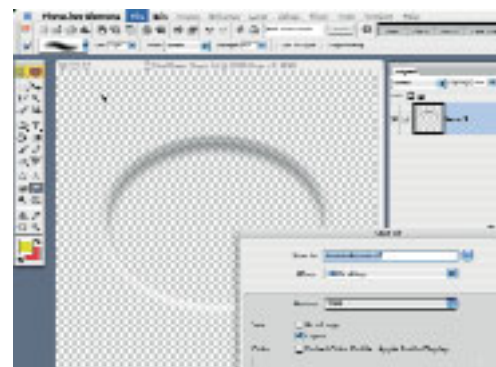
### 1: Find the resource file

Use an existing iDVD 3 button to get the correct size for the replacement graphic. Go to the iDVD 3 icon and Control-click. Choose 'Show Package Contents'.



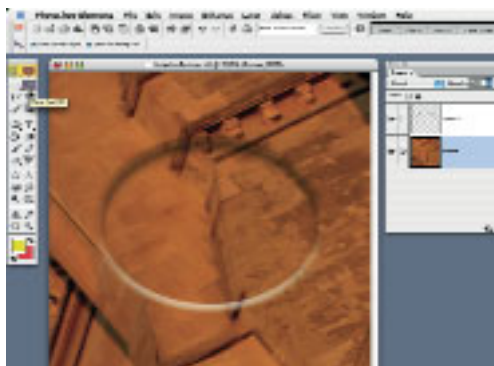
### 2: Duplicate image

In the 'Contents' folder, open the 'Resources' folder. Copy 'OvalDown.Shape.tif' to the desktop (it's best to drag it while holding the 'Alt' key to duplicate it).



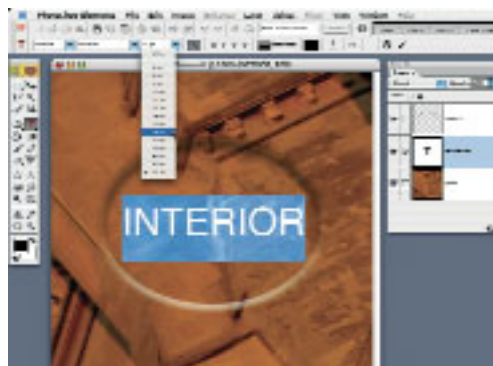
### 3: Open image

Open the file in Photoshop Elements. You'll see an oval drop-shadow shape. Make sure that any text and graphics you create fit inside this oval shape.



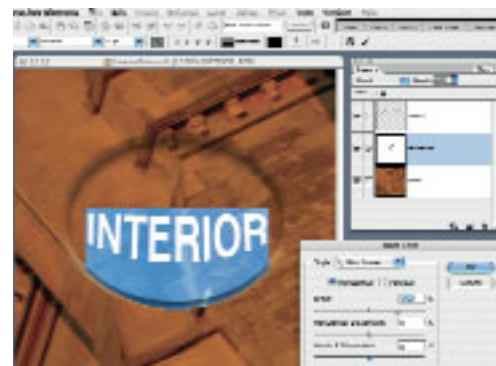
### 4: Copy stone

Open 'Cathedral.jpg' from this issue's CD. Copy a selection of stone and paste it into the document. Use the 'Move' tool to position a section in the oval.



### 5: Type text

Take the 'Text' tool and type 'Interior' using the 'Helvetica' font. Increase the font size using the 'Options' bar so that the text fills the oval shape.



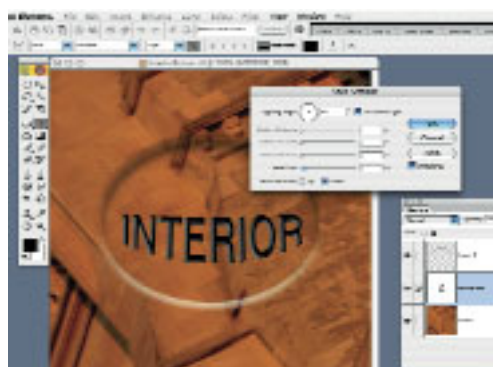
### 6: Warp text

Select 'Warp Text' from the 'Options' bar. Choose 'Arc Lower' from the 'Warp Text' window. Adjust the slider so the text curves to match the lower oval edge.



### 7: Bevel text

Click on the 'Layer Style' tab in the menu bar and select the 'Bevel' options. Click on 'Simple Sharp Inner' to apply the bevel to the text.



### 8: Edit bevel

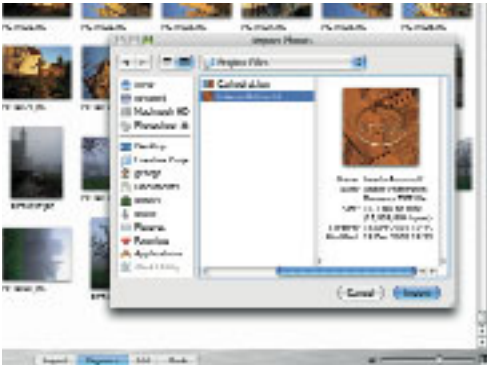
Double-click the 'Layer Style' symbol in the text layer thumbnail. In the 'Style Settings' window, change the 'Bevel Direction' to 'Down' to give an engraved look.



### 9: Layer blend

Change the text layer's 'Blend' mode to 'Lighten'. This makes the text even more chiselled, creating a nice gothic style button. Save as 'InteriorButton.tif'.

## Step-by-step iDVD 3 Customising iDVD 3's interface



### 10: iPhoto detour

To get the graphic into iDVD 3, you must place it in iPhoto. Go to iPhoto and choose 'File', 'Import'. Select 'InteriorButton.tif' to store it in the iPhoto 'Library'.



### 11: Open iDVD

Open iDVD and click on the 'Themes' icon. Choose 'All' from the 'Themes' pop-up menu and then select the 'Sky' theme as the basis for your interface.



### 12: Change background

Click the 'Settings' icon. Find the 'Cathedral.jpg' file from our CD and drag it onto the 'Image/Movie' box in the 'Background' setting.



### 13: Change title

Click on the title text and type in 'St Albans Cathedral.' Change the font in the title window to match the 'Helvetica' you used for the button.



### 14: Select button shape

At the moment the buttons are set to match the old 'Sky' theme. Hold down the 'From Theme' icon in the 'Button' section and choose the oval shape.



### 15: Add folder

Click on the 'Folder' icon to add a button. In the 'Button Settings' box, set the 'Button' to 'Free Position' so you can move it onto the sky section.



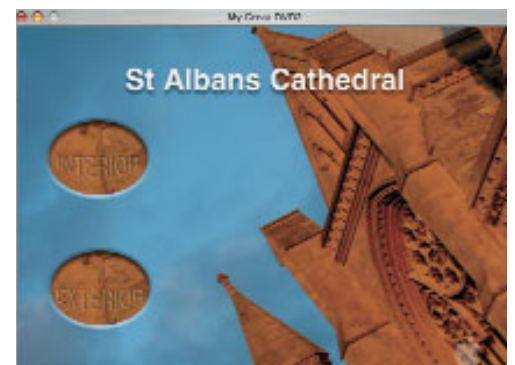
### 16: Add a new graphic

Click on the 'Photos' section of iDVD to link to the iMovie 'Library'. Simply drag the 'InteriorButton' graphic onto the oval button shape on the interface.



### 17: Loose text

You don't need the 'My Folder' text, because you added your own text in Photoshop. In 'Button Settings', go to 'Position' and choose 'No Text'.



### 18: Create more buttons

Now modify the original layered Photoshop Elements file to create a button that will link to the section on the DVD about the exterior of the Cathedral.



## Custom buttons in iDVD 3

### Theme stealers

#### Make improvements

We chose the very simple 'Sky' theme interface, because this provided a good subject for a total makeover, resulting in a unique look.

### Customised background

#### Make it your own

The default 'Sky' theme background was replaced by a shot of our Cathedral, which was dragged into straight iDVD 3 from iPhoto. How user-friendly is that!

### Knowledge Base: More modification

#### Always duplicate

We modified the basic oval button shape to create a unique graphic. If you're feeling brave you could find and customise the source highlight graphic that appears on the oval button when it is selected. Always modify a copy of the original source graphic or iDVD will be permanently stuck with your modified versions.

### Button modification

#### Put them where you like

We adapted the default iDVD oval shaped button and modified it in Photoshop Elements to create a distinctive gothic graphic. 'Free Position' allowed it to be put in the perfect place.

### Fab folders

#### Link it all together

Adding folders to the interface created the buttons. These folders link to other sections of the DVD containing movies and chapter headings.

### Knowledge Base: Make it move

#### Know your themes

We modified a simple themed interface by adding our own still to it. Make sure you explore some of the other themes. Many of them will let you add stills and movies to them so that you can create animated menus. You can still add your customised buttons to these moving menus using the techniques shown in this tutorial.

## Step-by-step iDVD 3 Using 'Layer Styles' to create button effects

The 'Bevel' effect we used was the tip of the 'Layer Styles' iceberg – here are some other creative options. The fully editable layered files are also on this issue's CD for you to customise to create your own buttons



### Drop Shadow

Existing Layer Styles can be enhanced with additional effects. Add a 'Drop Shadow' to an existing 'Bevel' to enhance that 3D look.



### Wow Neon

The 'Wow Neon' effect can make your buttons look out of this world! Do all you can to make your customised DVD icons stand out from the crowd.



### Jigsaw effect

Don't forget you can also apply 'Layer Styles' to other layers as well as the text. This jigsaw effect needs its 'Bevel' size reduced to make it more subtle.



### Inner Glow

The 'Inner Glow' section allows you to create alternative editable 3D effects. Click on the 'Clear Style' button to remove all styles.



### All at sea

Use 'Wow Plastic' to float your button on an aquatic interface. The 'Wave Style' in the 'Warp Text' window will add some watery curves to the text.



### Satin sheets

Here we have a 'Hard Edge Drop Shadow' style mixed with a 'Satin Sheets' pattern style to create this aristocratic Art Deco button.



### Combine styles

You can mix styles together. A 'Low Drop Shadow' style combined with a 'Radioactive Outer Glow' style gives us a button for a sci-fi themed DVD.



### Cool chrome

Create a liquid metal look, *Terminator 2* style, with a click of the mouse. Experiment with the 'Wow Chrome' styles in the 'Layer Styles' palette.



### Beautiful brickwork

For a unified button, apply the same style to the text and the background. A mere couple of clicks on the 'Brick Wall' pattern built this button.



### Complex styles

Rummage around the 'Layer Style' palette for more complex effects. Here we have 'Diamond Plate' combined with a 'Warp Text' arc.



### Making glass

You can create a button that's inspired by album covers from the 1970s using the 'Glass Buttons' option from the 'Layer Styles' palette.



### Stucco style

If stone cladding is more your thing, combine a drop shadow on the text with the 'Stucco' pattern on a white background layer.



# Tutorial: Get the most from the iTunes Equalizer

Music sounding a bit flat? Struggling to get the right sound for the right occasion? We show you how to apply the perfect remedy with the iTunes Equalizer



## Aims of this section

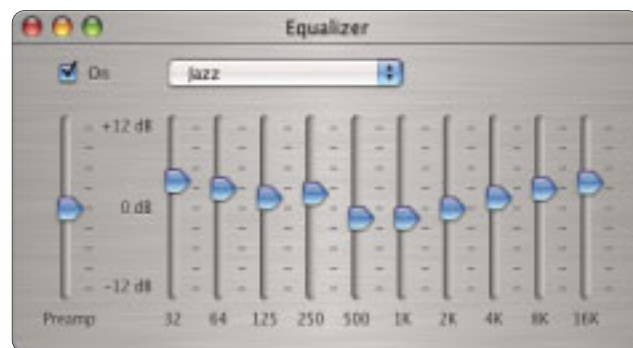
**Task:** Apply equalizer presets and use iTunes plug-ins

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Time needed:** 15 minutes



The majority of iTunes users can happily live their lives in complete ignorance of the program's handy Equalizer feature. Those that are serious not only about their music but also about its sound quality, however, will find that the Equalizer affords them a massive degree of control over how their favourite sounds are reproduced. In simplistic terms, the Equalizer replaces the bass and treble boosters found on most traditional stereos, although they offer a greater degree of flexibility to the user. With the ability to set overall presets for music playback, adjust the bass and treble levels of individual tracks and create your own presets, the iTunes Equalizer has everything you need to take control of your music.

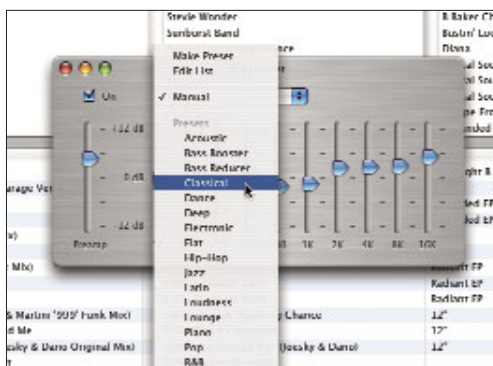


## Step-by-step iTunes Setting up Equalizer presets



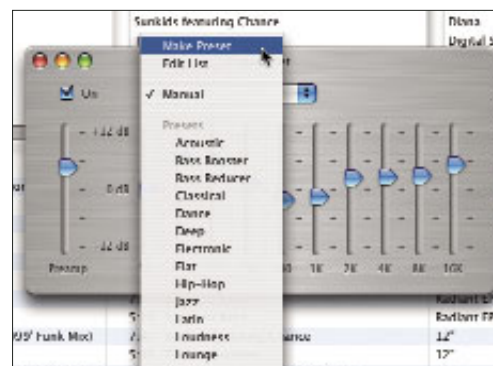
### 1: Open the Equalizer

In addition to pressing the 'Equalizer' button at the bottom of the iTunes interface, you can also summon it from the 'Window' menu by clicking on 'Equalizer'.



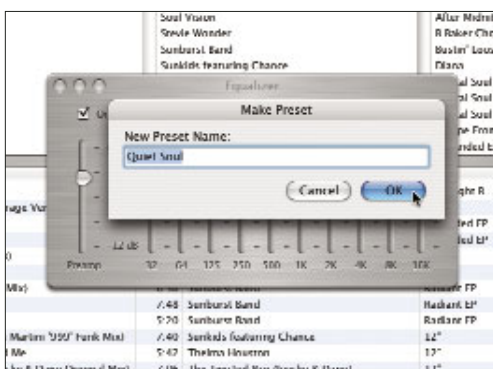
### 2: Pick a preset

If you don't fancy messing around with the slider, pick a preset from the drop-down menu. Select a setting that matches the music you're playing.



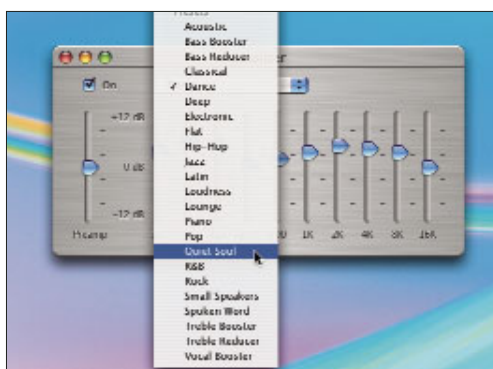
### 3: Make your own

You don't have to stick with the supplied presets – you can also make your own. Set the sliders to taste, click the drop-down menu and select 'Make Preset...'.



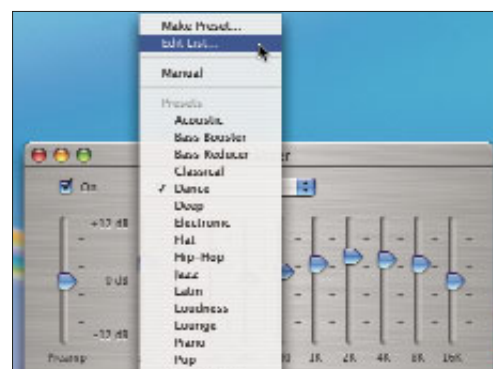
### 4: Give it a name

You'll be asked to name the preset. We configured the Equalizer to boost the volume and low end frequencies of a soul track, hence the name. Hit 'OK'.



### 5: Apply your preset

Now, when you want to apply your new preset to a track or playlist, simply call up the Equalizer and select the preset from the drop-down menu to apply it.



### 6: Editing presets

Perhaps you want to delete a redundant preset. Maybe even rename an existing one. To do so, click on the drop-down menu and scroll up to 'Edit List...'.

## Working with iTunes Equalizer

### Wired for sound

#### The Equalizer window

This is the Equalizer window. You can summon it from either the Window menu, by clicking the Equalizer button at the bottom of the interface or hitting the 'Apple' and '2' keys at the same time. Each slider allows adjustments to be made in decibels to individual frequencies.

### Single songs

#### Individual settings

It's also possible to select individual equalizer settings for each song in your iTunes Library. See steps eight and nine for more information on how this is done.

### How low can you go?

#### Adjusting bass frequencies

The three sliders to the left cover low frequencies in a particular recording. Move the slider up to increase the bass and down to reduce it. By default, the slider is set to nought.

### Stuck in the middle

#### Mid-range frequencies

The two middle sliders control the mid-range frequencies, the lukewarm water of a particular track, if you like. By default these sliders are set to nought.

### Knowledge Base: Keeping track

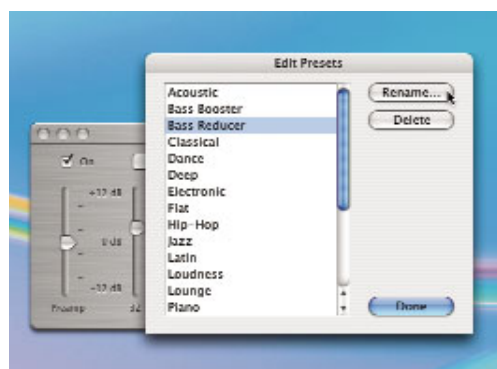
#### When the Equalizer is applied

If you are going to use the Equalizer, it's important to know when it is being applied. When you adjust the Equalizer's settings they are applied to either the currently playing track or the next track played if there is no song currently playing. If you have a playlist that is made up of songs from different genres, picking one setting will not be suitable for all the songs in the list. In this case it's a good idea to set individual settings for each track. In addition to the method described below, this can be done by highlighting a track in the iTunes 'Library' window, clicking on the 'File' menu, scrolling down to 'Get Info', clicking on the 'Options' tab and selecting individual Equalizer and volume settings.

### Pump up the volume

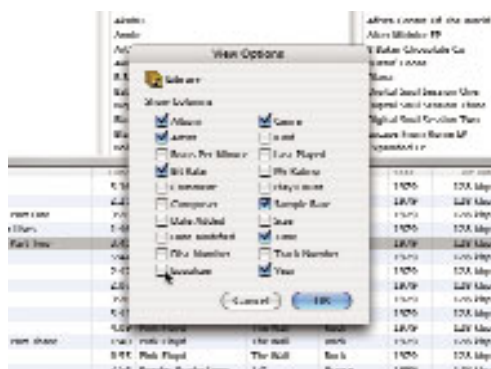
#### Using the Preamp

This handy slider allows you to boost the volume of any song, playlist or your entire library. The Preamp is perfect for giving quiet recordings a shot in the arm and bringing loud recordings to heel.



### 7: Rename or delete

Now, it's just a simple case of renaming or deleting the setting in question and hitting the 'Done' button at the bottom to confirm your actions.



### 8: Adjusting individual tracks

You can create bespoke settings for every track in your iTunes Library. Click the 'Edit' menu and pick 'View Options'. Click the 'Equalizer' box and hit 'OK'.



### 9: Make the setting

A new file will have been added to the main iTunes window. This has a drop-down menu that allows you to add different Equalizer setting to all of your songs.



# Tutorial: Using iTunes plug-ins

Want to get even more for the iTunes program? You can add some stunning new features to iTunes with this guide to using third party plug-ins and scripts to power up your digital music player



**Task:** Add new features to iTunes with plug-ins, third party applications and scripts

**Difficulty:** Expert

**Time needed:** 30 minutes



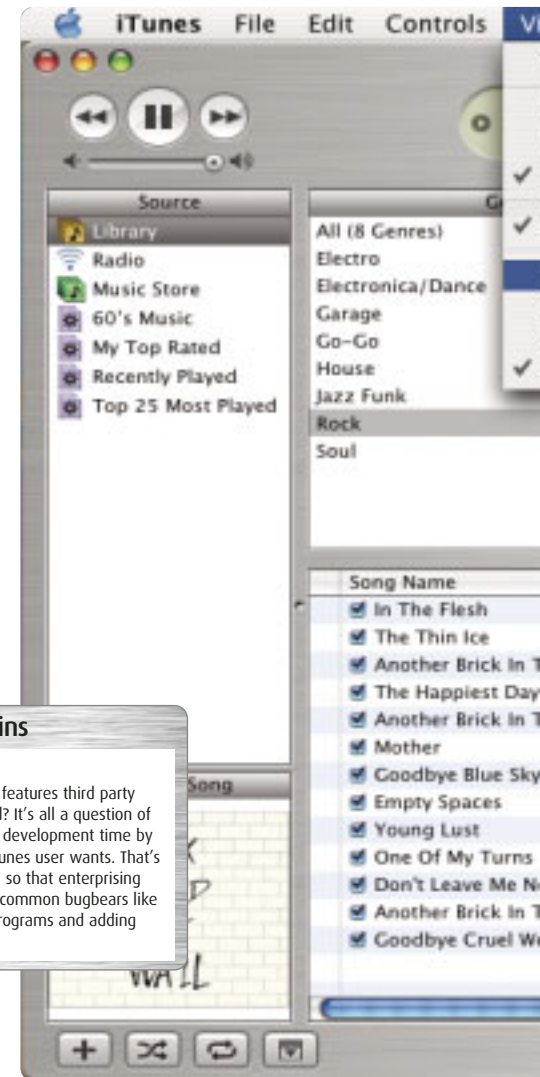
We've all heard about iMovie, Final Cut and Photoshop plug-ins, but few of us are aware that nearly all of Apple's iApps are extensible. iTunes is no exception and a quick trip to one of the many Mac download sites will uncover a plentiful supply of iTunes goodies. These take one of three forms. First, there are scripts: little programs, written in the Apple script programming language, that perform simple but useful tasks, allowing you to automate certain functions of the program and offering new functionality. Then, there are full-blown plug-ins; usually designed to enhance iTunes's visuals or the way that iTunes processes audio. Last, but not least, are standalone programs that can enhance the iTunes experience in any number of ways.

There are also plenty of third party applications and scripts available for the iPod, which we'll also cover here, due to the way in which the iPod integrates seamlessly with iTunes. The most common kind of iPod program allows tracks on the iPod to be transferred to iTunes or another folder on the destination Mac, but there are several other nifty utilities that allow contact and calendar data to be synchronised with not officially supported programs. Let's have a look at how it all works...

## Knowledge Base: Plug-ins

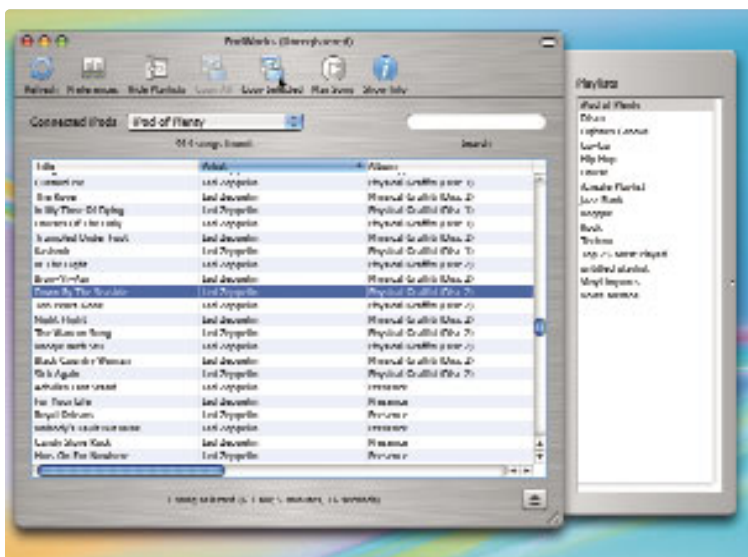
### Why the need for plug-ins?

So why doesn't Apple include any of the cool features third party developers are creating for iTunes as standard? It's all a question of logistics. Apple can't afford to waste valuable development time by adding hundreds of features that not every iTunes user wants. That's why Apple has made the program extensible; so that enterprising Mac users can create third party solutions for common bugbears like finding album artwork, syncing with other programs and adding extra visuals to the iTunes Visualizer.

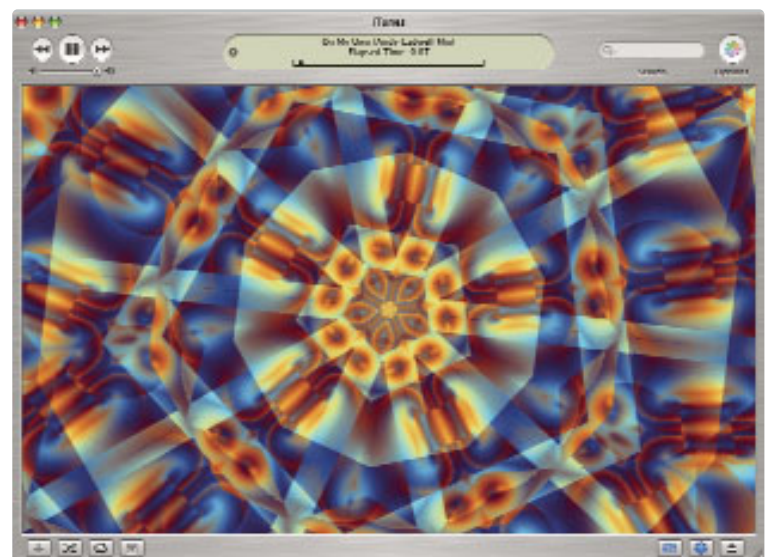


## Step-by-step iTunes Power up iTunes with plug-ins

### 1: PodWorks



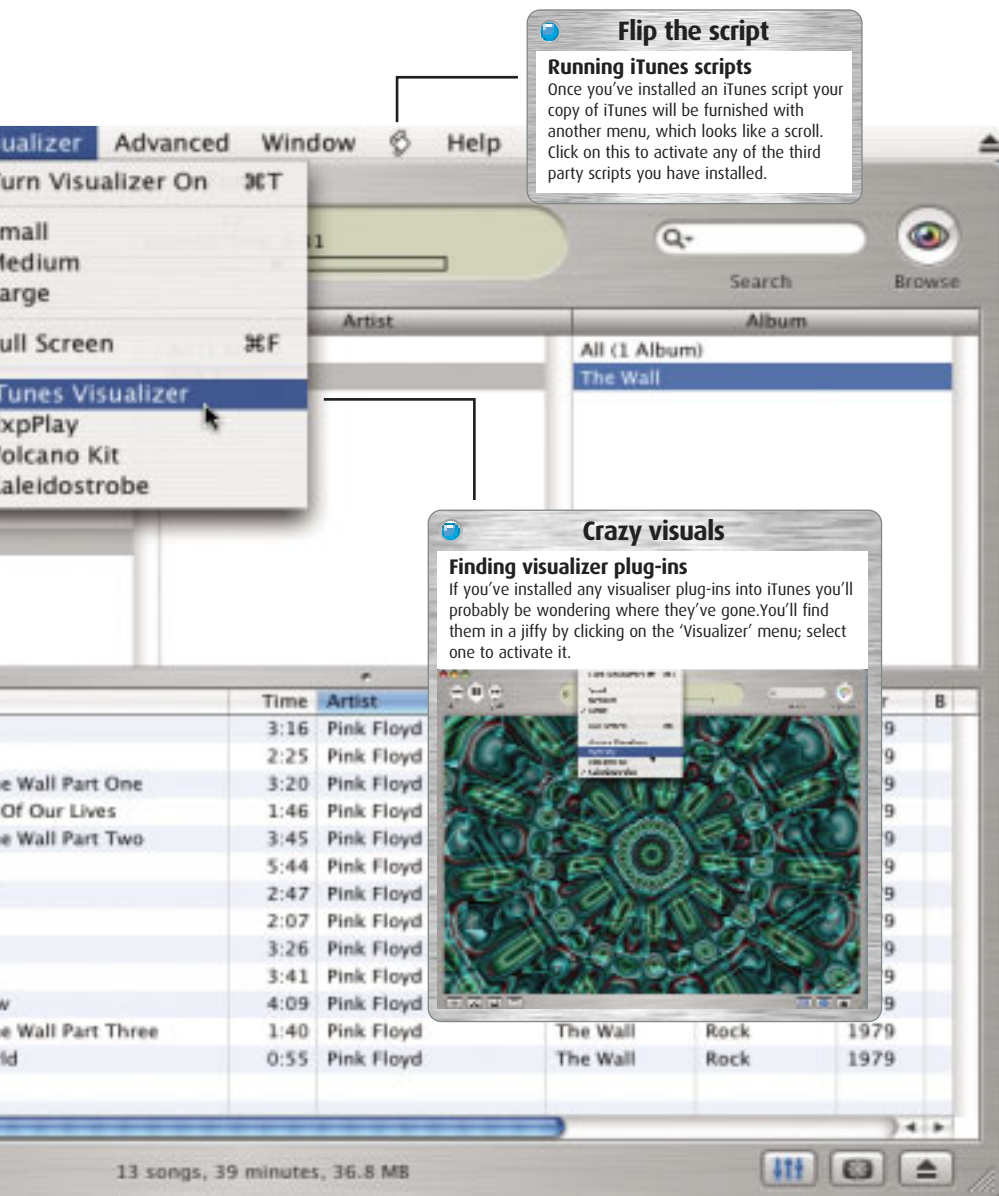
### 2: Kaleidostrobe



This is a totally indispensable tool for iPod owners that allows you to transfer songs from your iPod to your Mac and get round one of the iPod's most frustrating quirks. The great thing is that this program, unlike others of the same ilk, can transfer AAC files as well as MP3 files. Get it from [www.scifihihi.com/podworks](http://www.scifihihi.com/podworks)

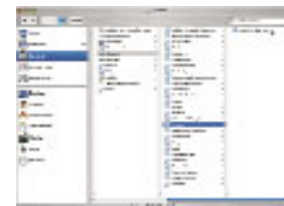
If you're fed up with the visuals generated by iTunes's built-in Visualizer, why not download some alternative eye candy? This far-out program does exactly what its name suggests. Head over to <http://kaleidostrobe.lasi.org> for some trippy visuals for that 1960s theme party and a break from the norm.





## Installing plug-ins and scripts

It's not immediately clear how to actually install iTunes plug-ins and scripts, particularly as Apple doesn't provide any documentation on the subject. Luckily, iTunes has been designed to be extensible and Apple has handily included a folder in your User Library for you to drop plug-ins and scripts into. Here's how it works...



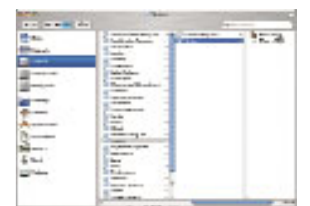
**1** Open up a new Finder window and then navigate thus through the menus: 'Users', 'Your Name', 'Library', 'iTunes', 'iTunes Plug-ins'. This folder is where you'll place the plug-ins and scripts.

**2** There's just one problem; we don't actually have any plug-ins. Fire up your Web browser and point it at [www.versiontracker.com](http://www.versiontracker.com). Type 'iTunes' into the search box and choose a program that takes your fancy.



**3** Once you've unpacked your download, simply drag it into the 'iTunes Plug-ins' folder mentioned earlier. Here we've downloaded a plug-in called Volcano Kit, which will enhance iTunes's visuals.

**4** Scripts work in exactly the same way. Once you've downloaded one and run its installer, a Scripts folder will automatically appear in the iTunes folder. Drag any further scripts you download into here.



## 3: Fetch Art for iTunes



This is an absolutely indispensable utility for people that like their iTunes Library to have that polished and organised look. Fetch Art downloads album artwork from the Amazon.com database into iTunes for you automatically; all you need is an Internet connection. Visit <http://staff.washington.edu/yoel/fetchart>

## 4: iWannaSleep



For once this is not the anguished plea of a tired and emotional *iCreate* writer, but is in fact a handy little timer program that can be used to turn iTunes off after a set period, put your computer to sleep or shut it down completely at a given time and even run a third party script. Available from [www.sb-software.de/en/](http://www.sb-software.de/en/)

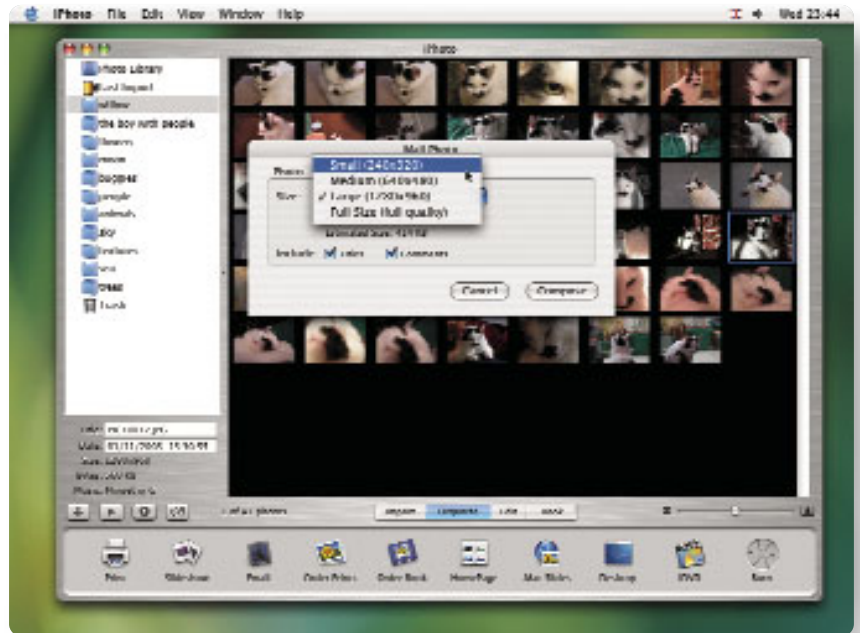
# Tutorial: Send photos as email attachments

With iPhoto, you can easily email photos to family and friends. Here's how it's done



**Aim of this section**  
**Task:** Email a photo  
**Difficulty:** Beginner  
**Time needed:** 5 minutes

When it comes to sharing your photos, there's no doubt that digital images are the easiest to pass around. Practically everyone in the universe now has an email address, so all you need do is attach one of your pictures to an email and hit 'Send'. iPhoto has a native email feature, and makes emailing a picture an incredibly simple process. The big concern with emailing images is that you send a huge file that takes an age to download, but iPhoto has a quick solution. Simply pick one of the supplied images sizes, and the program will automatically resize your photo. All that's left for you is to bask in the praise your photos will receive. Here we'll explain exactly how this simple but essential feature works so that you can put a smile on the face of a loved one with just a couple of mouse clicks.



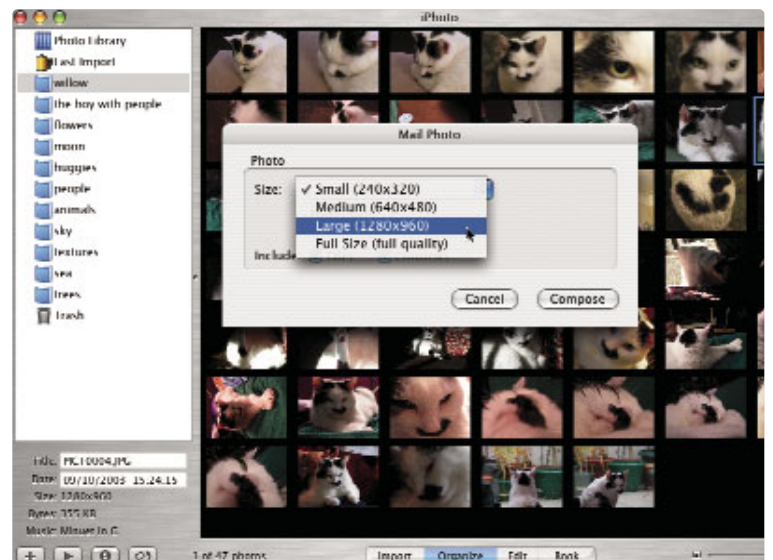
## Step-by-step iPhoto Sending emails from iPhoto

### 1: Pick up a picture



Your first step is to pick a picture from your iPhoto 'Library' to email. Making sure you're in 'Organize' view, single-click on an image. You should see a blue frame appear around your chosen picture. Now go down to the bottom row of icons and click on the 'Email' option.

### 2: Choose a size



The 'Mail Photo' dialog window will now appear. The first option you get to play about with is 'Size'. This drop-down menu is where you pick how the image should be resized to before it's emailed. Obviously spare a thought for your recipient before sending them a file of Titanic proportions.



## Emailing your photos

**New mail**

**Send your images**

As soon as you decide on an appropriate image size, a fresh, new mail window will open, ready for you to fill out as normal.

**Be organised**

**Make sure you're in the right view**

If you decide to do a bit of modification on your image before you send it off to be admired by someone else, make sure you come out of the 'Edit' mode into 'Organize'. If you don't, your images won't be going anywhere because you won't be able to see the 'Email' button!

**Knowledge Base: compatibility**

**All's not swell with AOL**

If you want to send a photo to someone with an AOL email account, you won't be able to do it from iPhoto. When iPhoto opens Mail, a small bit of code is attached to the message which renders the email unreadable to AOL users. But your AOL contacts don't have to miss out on your images. Simply copy a photo to your desktop, create a new email and add it as a normal attachment.

**One-button wonder**

**Send more than one image**

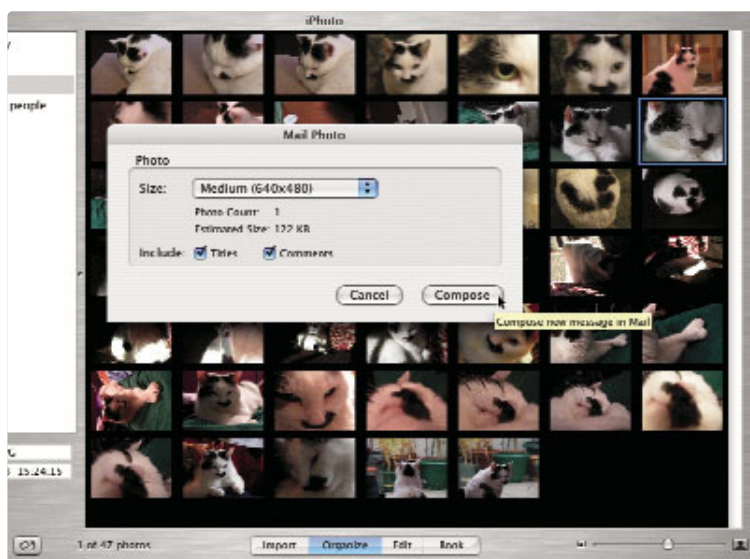
If you want to send a few images, hold down the 'Apple' key and select the pictures you want from the iPhoto 'Library'. When you click the 'Email' button, you will see the total size of the email with all images attached. The more images you have, the smaller you'll have to make them, especially if your recipient is struggling with a dial-up connection.

**Knowledge Base: other programs**

**Using other email applications**

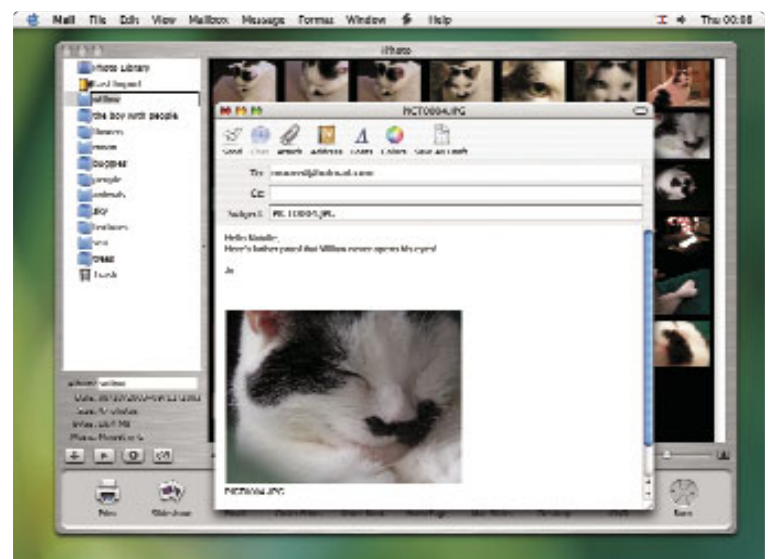
Although iPhoto automatically picks Mail as the email application to use to send the photos, you can use Entourage, Eudora or AOL as your email program of choice. Once the application is installed on your Mac, go to the 'iPhoto' menu and pick 'Preferences'. Go down to the 'Mail' option and pick your email program.

### 3: Room for comment



Thankfully, you don't have to guess what effect the size adjustment will have on your image. Have a look at the 'Estimated Size:' measurement to see what your email will weigh in at. Keep the 'Titles' and 'Comments' boxes ticked, and then click the 'Compose' button.

### 4: Send your message



Mail will now open a new message window, with your newly resized photo sitting pretty inside the email window. Type out your email as normal and hit 'Send'. If you don't want the name of the image to appear, untick the 'Titles' and 'Comments' boxes from the previous step.

# Tutorial: The iChat AV interface explained

A few years ago you'd have paid thousands of pounds for even a basic video-conferencing system. But now, with iChat AV and a suitable Webcam, you can be video-chatting in seconds



**Aim of this section**  
**Task:** exploring the iChat interface

**Difficulty:** beginner  
**Time needed:** 10-15 minutes

For years, telephone companies like BT have been experimenting with expensive, hi-tech 'video-phone' systems that allow you to actually see the people that you're talking to. They were all barking up the wrong tree, though, because video-chat on the Internet is already a reality, thanks to products such as iChat AV and Apple's iSight Webcam.

The beauty of iChat is its simplicity. The software uses all sorts of complex technologies to compress and stream a two-way live video-chat across the Internet, but iChat hides all the complicated stuff and allows you to get started with just a few clicks of your mouse.



## Size matters

The video window can be resized from its standard quarter-screen, right up to full-screen size. Apple uses special imaging technology to maintain the image quality without you needing to have a super-fast Internet connection.

## Knowledge Base: Which Webcam?

### Why the need for plug-ins?

Obviously Apple would prefer it if you bought one of its iSight cameras to use with iChat. However, iChat will work with any Webcam that has a FireWire interface. It can even work with DV camcorders – just connect the camcorder to your Mac's FireWire port and make sure you've put the camcorder into 'camera' mode. If you click on the green camera icon opposite your own name in the Buddy List, you will open a small preview window that allows you to check out the image you're getting before you start chatting. This preview window also lets you check audio levels as well. There may be occasions when you need to use a dedicated microphone rather than the built-in mike in your camcorder or Webcam.



## Picture in picture

You can view your own image as a small 'picture within a picture'. This will remind you that you're on camera so you don't forget and then start picking your nose or doing something equally embarrassing. It also allows you to make sure that the picture quality the person you are chatting with is receiving is up to scratch.





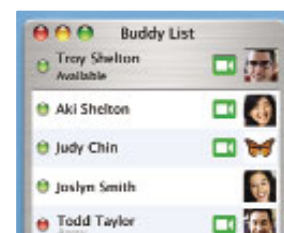
## Audio On/Off

There may be times when you need to cut out the audio signal during a video chat, so just click this icon to turn the audio on or off. You can still communicate by sending text messages if you want. Working this way effectively means that you are just using the normal iChat features to communicate and the iChat AV features for the images.



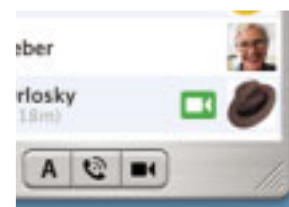
## Buddy List

The Buddy List is the heart of iChat. It allows you to see which of your friends is online, and tells you whether they have a Webcam that can be used for video-chat, or whether you will have to stick with old-fashioned text-chat.



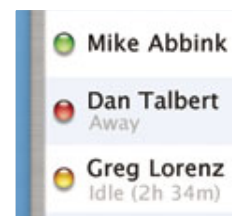
**1** The names of all your friends are displayed in the Buddy List. Names in grey are offline, but as people come online they are automatically highlighted. The little green camera icon tells you they have a Webcam available for video chat.

**2** To start a chat, just select one of your online buddies and then click on one of these three icons at the bottom of the Buddy List window. They allow you to start three types of chat sessions: text-only, audio-only or video chat.



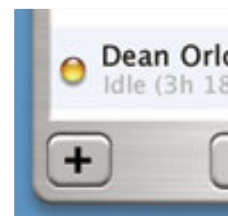
## Viewing Buddy Status

Look closely underneath the names of the people in your Buddy List and you'll see some text which displays the current status of your buddies. You can set similar messages for your buddies by clicking on the text under your name and selecting an option.



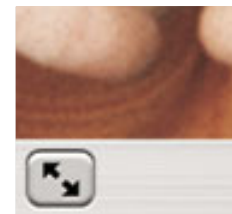
## Adding a Buddy

By clicking on the plus icon at the bottom of the Buddy List window you can call up the Address Book application, select someone to add to your Buddy List and then invite them for a chat.



## Resizing the screen

There are two ways to change the size of the video image. Click and drag the 'size' handle in the bottom right corner of the window, just as you would with any window, or press the 'Resize' icon – the one with two arrows – to switch in and out of full-screen mode.



# Tutorial: Your first video chat

Using iChat AV is really easy, but you'll need to go through a few simple steps to set it up for the first time. Allow us to guide you through your first steps with the program



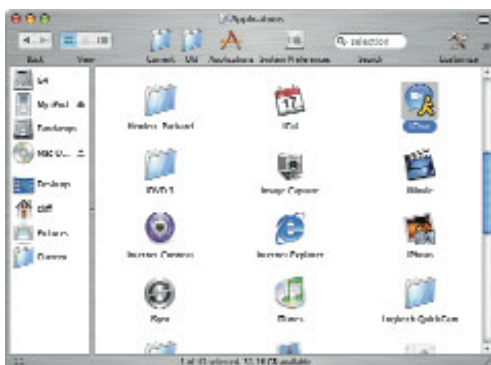
**Aim of this section**  
**Task:** setting up iChat AV  
**Difficulty:** Beginner  
**Time needed:** 5 minutes



Apple's marketing of iChat AV may be a bit dodgy – it's free with Panther (OS X v.10.3), but you have to pay for it if you haven't got Panther, and it's not even included in the price of the iSight camera. But, from a technical point of view, it's Apple at its best. Like all the best Apple products it takes a complex technology and makes it really easy to use. You just need to enter a few simple bits of information and you can be video-chatting in no time at all. One thing that we quickly found out is that it helps if both people look directly into the iSight camera or Camcorder being used to set up the video chat. If you make the mistake of staring at the preview window on your screen the people you are chatting with will not be able to make eye contact. And that's the whole point, isn't it?



## Step-by-step iChat AV Set up your first chat with iChat AV



### 1. What's in a name?

Your first step, of course, is to locate the iChat AV software. One thing to note is that the program icon is actually just called 'iChat'. Who knows why?



### 2. Create an account

Before you get started you have to create an iChat account, and a 'screen name' that identifies you to other iChat users. There are two ways of doing this.



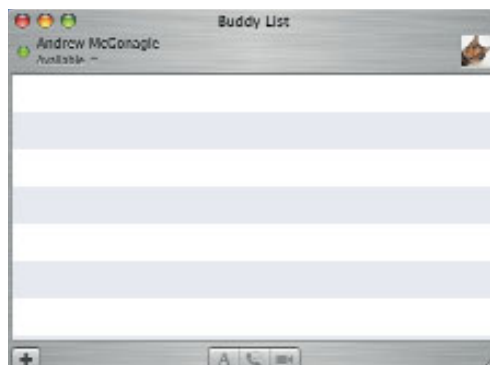
### 3. Signing on

If you have an AOL screen name you can use your existing AOL screen name. If not, you can sign up for a free iChat account on the .Mac Web site ([www.mac.com](http://www.mac.com)).



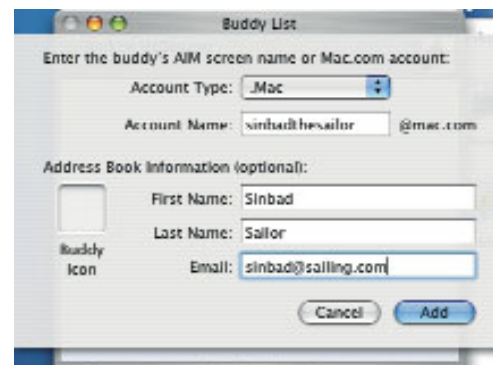
### 4. Check your camera

Before you start, iChat lets you check your camera settings to make sure that everything's working okay. Remember to check the audio levels as well.



### 5. Creating a Buddy List

Your next step is to create a list of 'Buddies' that you want to chat with. To get started, just click the '+' sign in the lower left corner of the Buddy window.



### 6. Enter a screen name

To add someone to your Buddy List you need to know their screen name, and whether the origin is AOL or .Mac. You can add an icon to identify them visually.



## How to get yakking with iChat AV

**Status Menu**  
**Easily access iChat AV from the Finder**  
The iChat Status menu sits here even when iChat isn't running, and can be set to tell your friends whether or not you're available for chatting.

**Buddy List**  
**See if your friends are online**  
The icons by your buddies' names tell you if they're online, and also tell you what type of chat they're available for – text, audio, or video.

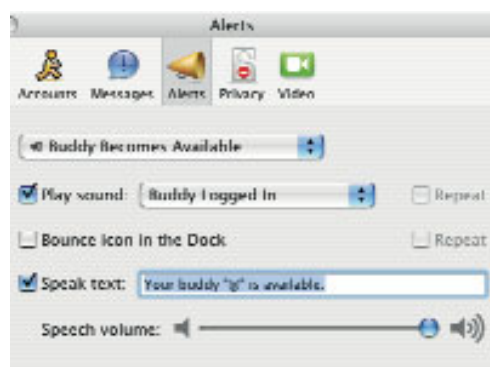
**Back Chat**  
**Different types of video chat**  
The picture-in-picture option indicates that you're running a two-way chat, but you can also start a one-way chat where the other person can't see you.

**Text Chat**  
**Why not send an Instant Message?**  
You can use text to communicate if your audio's a bit dodgy, and you can also conduct separate text chats with other people at the same time as your video chat.



### 7. Protect your privacy

Open iChat's 'Preferences' dialog to set privacy options that determine who can see your video image. This is especially important if you've got young children.



### 8. Find a friend

Other useful options include iChat's ability to alert you when one of your 'buddies' comes online. It can even speak the person's name for you.



### 9. iChat, you chat

When your buddies come online, just double-click on the camera icon by their name on the Buddy list and you'll be connected straight away.

# Tutorial: Discover the new features in iCal 1.5.1

Thought iCal couldn't get any better? Think again – there's a whole raft of new features waiting for you in the latest version of Apple's calendar program



**Task:** Get to grips with the new features in iCal

**Difficulty:** Beginner

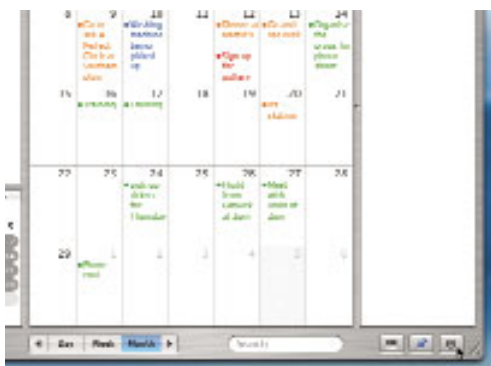
**Time needed:** 15 minutes



Out of all the iApps, iCal is probably the most hard done by. It's so easy to become engrossed in playing about with iTunes or iDVD that you can forget it exists altogether. And let's be frank, what would you rather do? Produce a beautiful DVD in iMovie or spend an hour typing in dates and appointments? But if you're struggling to organise all of your tasks, iCal can be your trusty steed in the fight for time management. And the good news is it's just got even better. With version 1.5.1, Apple has added various touches that make it even more of a pleasure to use. We're going to assume you know how to do the basic tasks of adding an event, to do lists and so on, and instead use these pages to highlight the new features that make iCal beam.

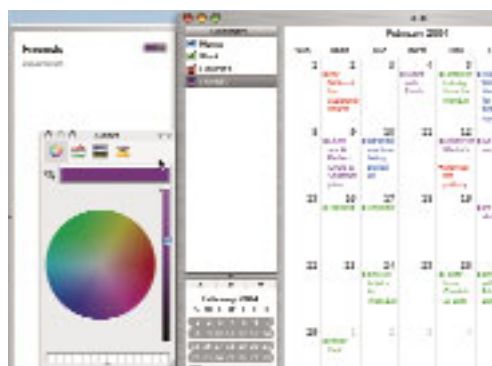


## Step-by-step iCal Use the new features in iCal 1.5.1



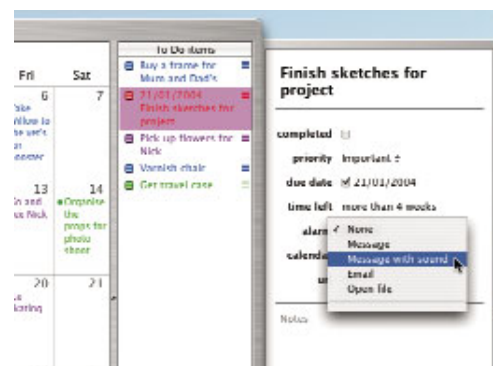
### 1: Customise your colours

You can now create custom colours for different calendar sections. Select one of the entries in the 'Calendars' pane, and click the 'Info' button.



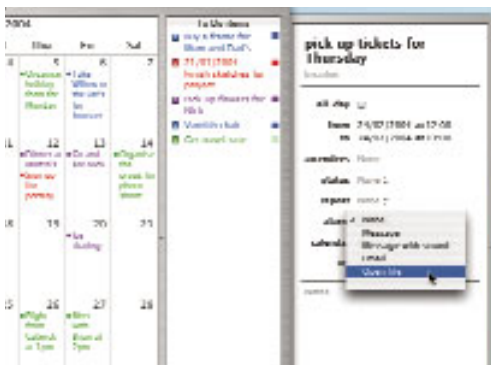
### 2: Pick a colour, any colour

In the drawer that appears, click on the drop-down menu. Choose 'Custom...' from the list and then use the colour wheel to pick a new hue.



### 3: Set alarm bells ringing

It's now possible to add an alarm to a 'To Do' item. Click one, hit the 'Info' button and click 'Due date'. Select an option from the 'alarm' drop-down menu.



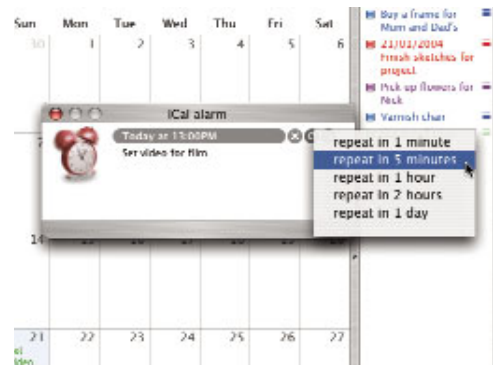
### 4: Pick an application

It's also possible to set an alarm to open another application or file. Select the event or 'To Do' item that needs the alarm and then go to 'Open file'.



### 5: Make your choice

Two drop-down menus will appear. Choose 'Other' from the top one and browse to an application or file that you want to open. Click 'Select' to choose it.



### 6: Have a snooze

All of iCal's alarms now come with a 'snooze' feature. When an alarm is triggered, you can use the 'Repeat' menu to delay the alarm.



## The new delights of iCal

### Cause for alarm

#### Get your attention

Alarms have been greatly improved in this version of iCal, and can be added to 'To Do' items as well as events. The alarm options are also far better, with the choice of standard alerts or opening an application or file. Plus, the 'snooze' facility means if you can't attend to something right away, you can just repeat the alarm for a few minutes later.

### Colourful entries

#### Customise your colours

Being able to assign colours to different parts of your life has always been an excellent feature in iCal. This has now got even better, because you can create customised colours.

### Nifty navigation

#### Everything is just a key away

Thanks to some very handy keyboard shortcuts (see Knowledge Base for more) you can zip through your calendars like never before. Skip through events, add new data and open up menus - all from the keyboard.

### Knowledge Base: The best shortcuts

#### Give your mouse a holiday

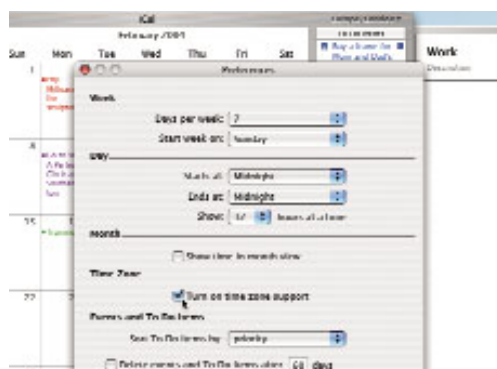
We've already mentioned the improved handling of shortcuts in this version of iCal. Here's our list of the most helpful ones.

Command, right arrow	Go to the next day, week or month
Command, left arrow	Go to previous day, week, month
Spacebar	Check or uncheck the selected calendar in the 'Calendars' list
Tab	Select the next event or 'To Do' item
Tab, Shift	Select previous event or 'To Do' item
Control-click an event	Move event to another calendar
Control, right arrow	Move selected event to the next day (left arrow for previous day)
Command, comma	Open iCal's 'Preferences'
Command, N	Create a new event
Command, K	Create a new 'To Do'
Option, Command, N	Create a new calendar
Command, 1	Switch to 'Day' view
Command, 2	Switch to 'Week' view
Command, 3	Switch to 'Month' view
Command, I	Show/hide the 'Info' drawer
Command, ?	Open iCal Help

### Spanning time

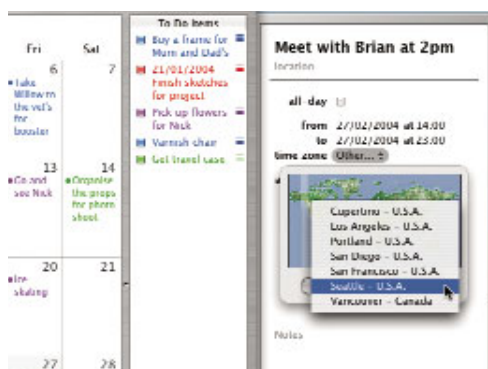
#### Global concerns

Just because you're travelling to another country doesn't mean that you can't set up your appointments. Enable the 'Time zone' option and you can set up events for wherever you will be in the world.



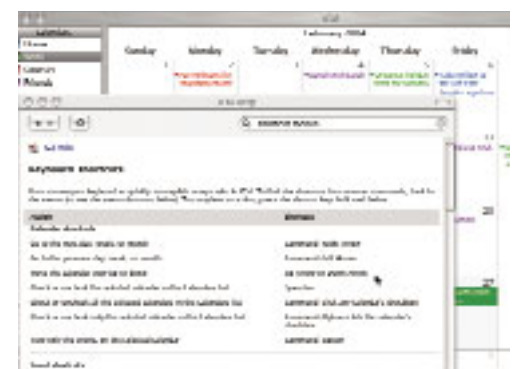
### 7: World traveller

Globetrotters will be happy to hear that events can now be assigned different time zones. Go to 'iCal', 'Preferences' and select 'Turn on time zone support'.



### 8: In the zone

Select the event, click the 'Info' button and choose a time zone by clicking on the map. Just remember to set your Mac to the correct zone when you're away!



### 9: By the short and curlies

Keyboard shortcuts are a major part of version 1.5.1, and let you do pretty much anything in the program. See iCal 'Help' for a complete list.

# Tutorial: Linking a Palm device using iSync

iCal can now be used on the move if you have a Palm-powered PDA, which is perfect if you have a busy work and social life. Prepare to be synchronised!



**Aim of this section**  
**Task:** Linking up your Palm PDA using iSync  
**Difficulty:** Intermediate  
**Time needed:** 20 minutes

There is nothing more soul-destroying than having to copy appointments or messages into two or more different places just because modern electrical devices do not talk to each other.

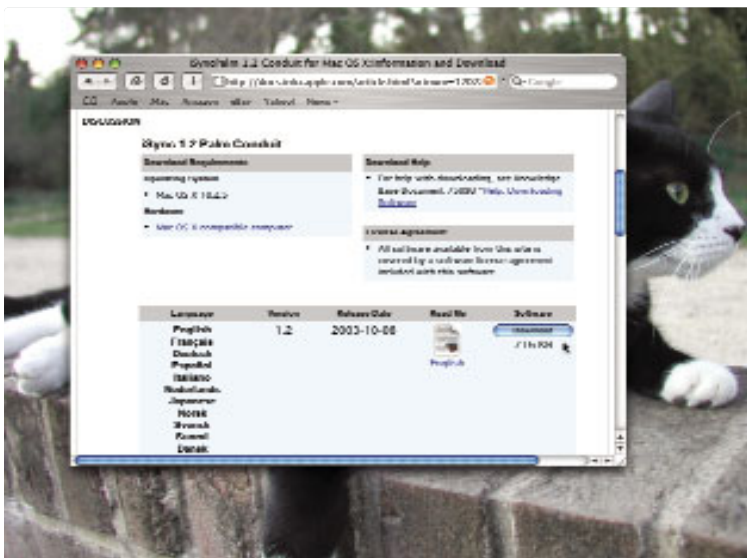
Happily, Apple has released a program called 'iSync Palm Conduit', which means that if you have a PDA powered by the Palm Operating System you can use iSync to perfectly synchronise your PDA with Apple's superb iCal and Address Book applications.

Although Palm does supply its Palm Desktop software for Macs, its bland grey menus and calendars are no comparison to iCal's colourful and easy to use approach. Put simply, you will never go back to Palm Desktop once you have followed this tutorial and brought iSync to life.

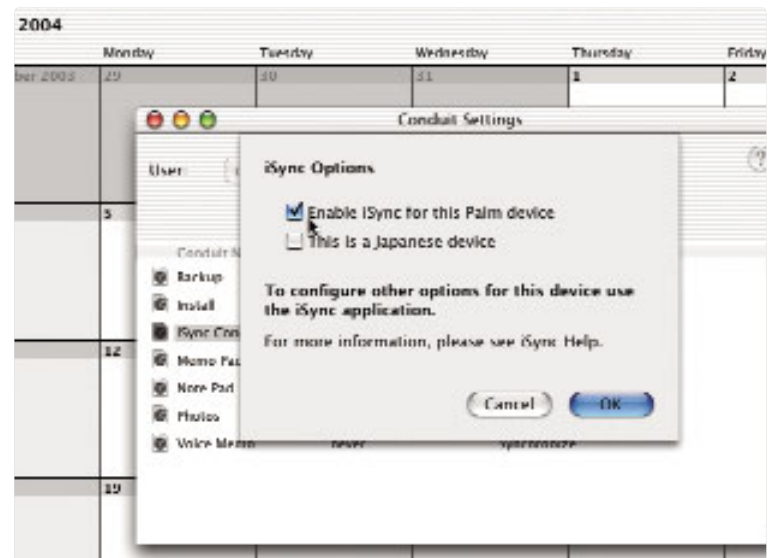


## Step-by-step iCal Set up iSync to run with your Palm PDA

### 1: Download latest iSync Conduit



### 2: Install iSync Conduit, configure Palm Desktop



Your Mac does not come optimised for use with a Palm-powered PDA like the Tungsten T3 or Sony Clie, so the first thing you need to do is visit the Apple.com support site and download the latest version of iSync Conduit. This program allows you to change the Palm's default settings to sync with iCal.

Once iSync Conduit is saved to your desktop, install the program and then load up the Palm Desktop software which came with your PDA. Go to the 'HotSync' menu and select 'Conduit Settings.' You will now be faced with the menu shown above. Tick the 'Enable iSync for this Palm device' option and click 'OK'.



## The Hotsync command in action

**Calendars**


**Full control over which are synchronised**

When you enter the iSync options by clicking on your PDA icon you are given the chance to deselect certain Calendars in iCal so that the data is not copied across. This is useful if, for example, you want to keep your personal information separate from your work.

**Hotsync**

**Activate your PDA**

The synchronisation of your PDA and iCal does not start with your Mac. To ensure smooth 'Hotsyncs' click on the icon on your PDA (shown below) and the relevant programs will load automatically on your Mac.



**iSync**

**Add all your devices to iSync**

Once you have updated your Palm software using iSync Conduit an icon for your PDA will appear here in iSync. Click on it to set up your 'Hotsync' options.

**Alarms**

**No problems here**

You will find that almost all of iCal's functionality works perfectly with the Palm calendar software. Alarms, repeated appointments, To Do's and notes all work perfectly when synchronised.

**Re-colour**

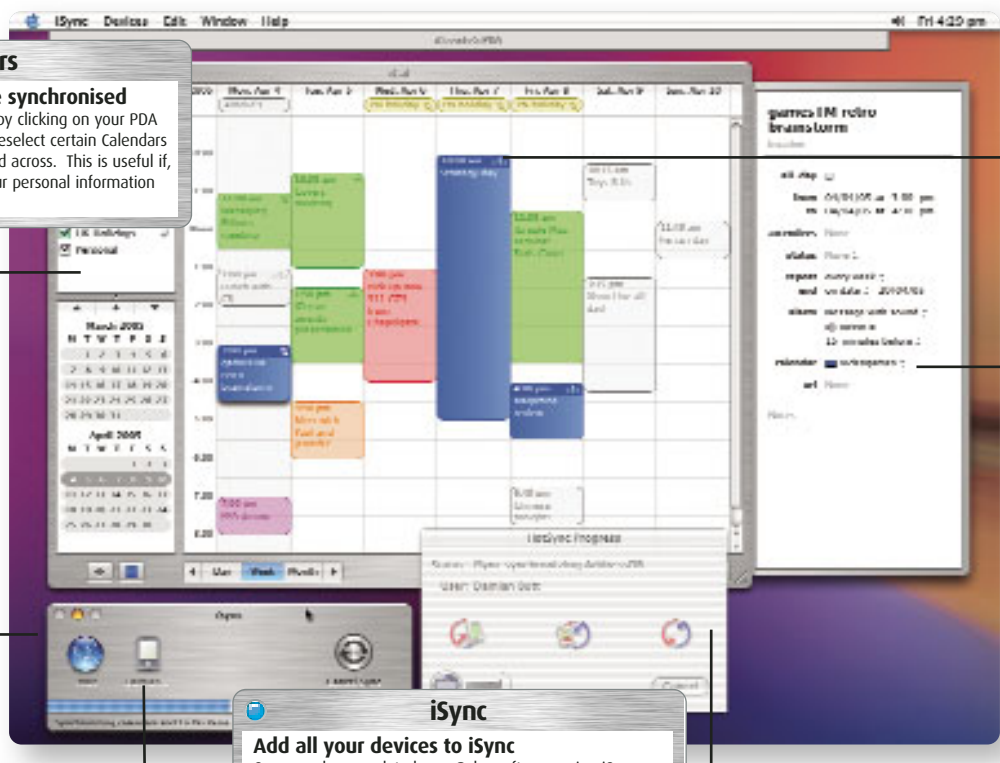
**PDA uses a default**

One of the only gaps in the synchronisation of Palm PDAs to iCal is that appointments created on the PDA are not distinguished by different colours as they are on the Mac. This means that when appointments appear from your PDA, you must go into iCal and select the right coloured Calendar for them.

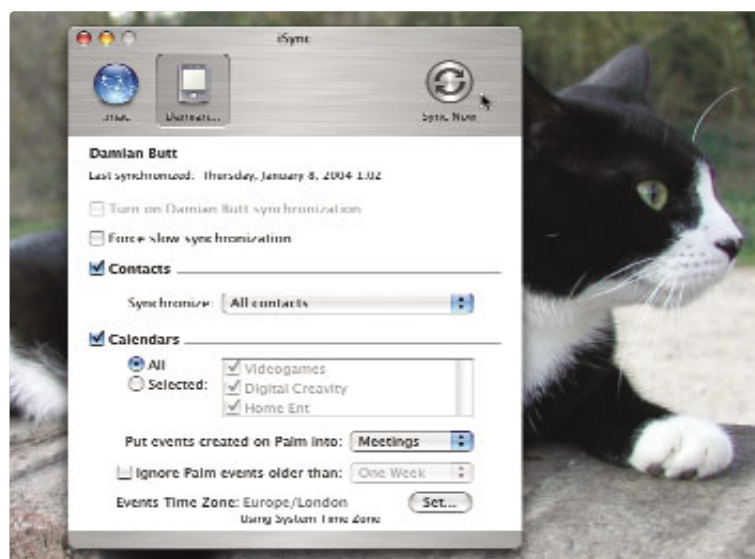
**Progress**

**Automatic updates**

The moment you touch the 'Hotsync' icon on your PDA your Mac will load iSync and then display this progress window. You can use this to ensure that your appointments and address information is copied over without errors.

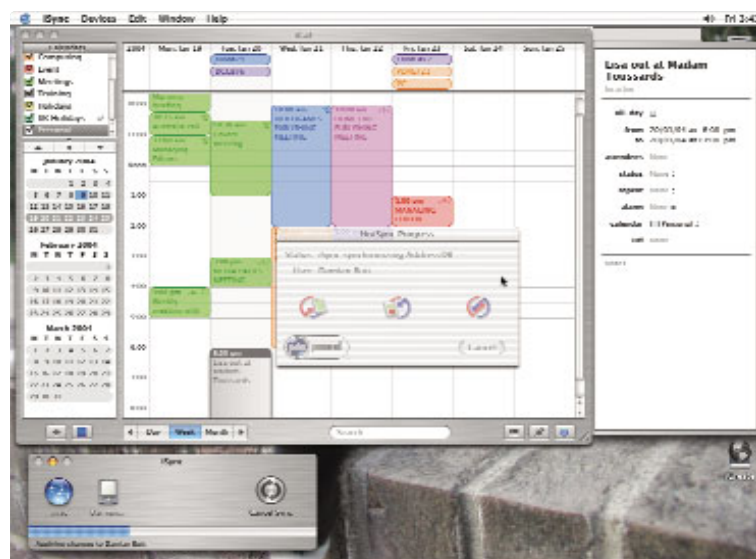


### 3: Set options for Palm PDA in iSync



Close down the Palm Desktop software and load up iSync. Drag this program to your Dock so that it's always on hand. An icon for your PDA will be displayed in the iSync window. Click on it once to see the options shown above. Here you can specify how the iCal data is treated when you sync with your PDA.

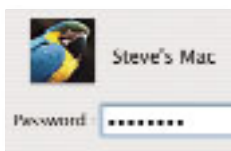
### 4: Plug in PDA and 'Hotsync'



You are now ready for your first 'Hotsync.' Plug your Palm PDA into your Mac using the supplied USB cable and then, on the PDA itself, find the 'Hotsync' software and click the logo to begin the operation. iSync will now load automatically and your iCal and Address Book data will be synchronised.

# Tutorial: Fast user switching explained

It's not often that the Mac borrows a feature from Windows, but fast user switching is exactly that. Find out what it can do for you in this simple primer



## Aims of this section

**Task:** Discover more about Panther

**Difficulty:** Intermediate – expert

**Time needed:** 1.5 hours

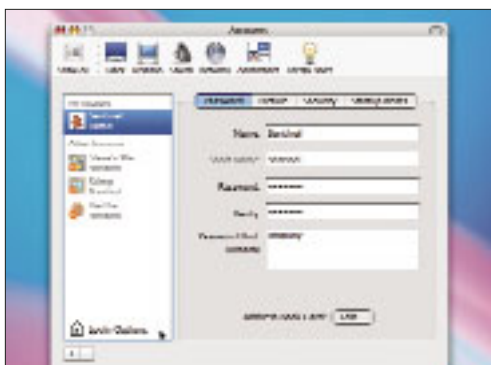
X It's normally Windows users who gaze longingly at features in the Mac OS and wish that they were incorporated into their Operating System. Fast user switching, however, takes its lead from a feature originally seen in Windows XP, although it's executed with a touch of visual panache that only Apple could muster.

Fast user switching enables you to quickly switch between different user accounts. This is ideal for people who have user accounts set up for different purposes – one for home and one for work, perhaps.

In this tutorial we'll assume that you've already set up user accounts on your Mac. If you haven't, take a look at the detailed tutorial on page 94 of issue three to get up to speed.

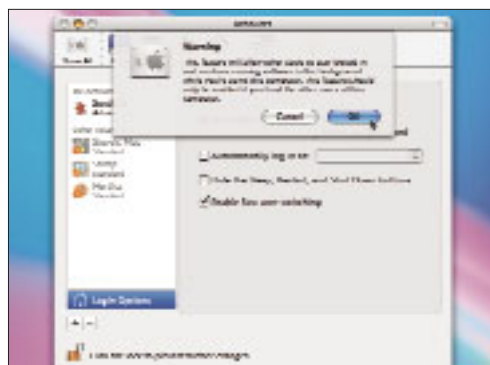


## Step-by-step OS X Set up fast user switching



### 1: The Accounts window

Begin by selecting 'System Preferences' from the 'Finder' menu. When the pane loads, click the 'Accounts' tab and hit 'Login Options'.



### 2: Enable fast user switching

In the next window, look for the checkbox where it says 'Enable fast user switching'. Click in it to select it. A warning dialog will appear. Hit 'OK'.



### 3: It's all in a name

The name of the currently active account will now appear in the menu bar. Click on it and you will see a menu containing all of the other user accounts.



### 4: Make the switch

Select the user account that you wish to activate. A dialog box for the new user account will appear. Enter the password for that account and hit 'Log In'.



### 5: The Login Window

Hey presto – the new account whirls into place. You can still change accounts via the 'Login Window' by selecting this option from the 'Users' menu.



### 6: Pick an account

At the 'Login Window', you can select any of the accounts currently running or decide to put your Mac to sleep, restart it or shut down.



## Work your way around fast user switching

**People power**  
**Seeing all the accounts**  
Every account set up on your Mac will appear in this sidebar. Click on an account to make changes. Only the account that is logged in and those without passwords can be edited here.

**Staying secure**  
**Setting up passwords**  
You can use the 'Accounts' window to set a password for any account. Fast user switching will ask for a password for any account where one is set up, allowing you keep your data safe and secure from other users.

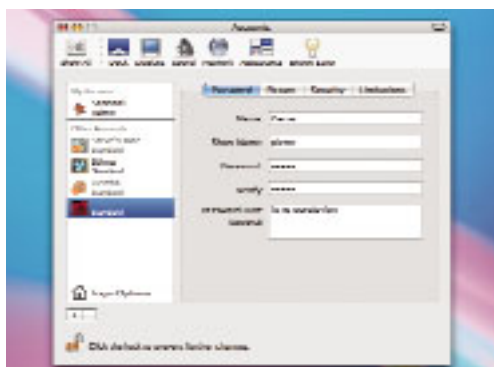
**Knowledge Base: Be paranoid**  
**Protect your accounts**  
One important thing to note about fast user switching is that, unlike the normal user accounts feature, all of your documents and applications continue to run after you switch to a different account. This makes security an issue, so ensure that the people who have access to fast user switching are people that you trust. It's also important to note that if you try to shut down your Mac while another application has unsaved data or is still running, you will receive a warning. Only the Administrator or those who know his or her password can shut the Mac down in these circumstances.

**Click the switch**  
**Switching between accounts**  
The 'User' menu only appears when fast user switching is turned on, and lets you switch between accounts with a single click (if no password is required). You can also access the 'Login Window' from here.

**Weighing up the options**  
**Logging in**  
You'll need to click on the 'Login Options' icon in order to get to the options that allow you to turn fast user switching on. This also allows you to determine the behaviour of additional login functions.

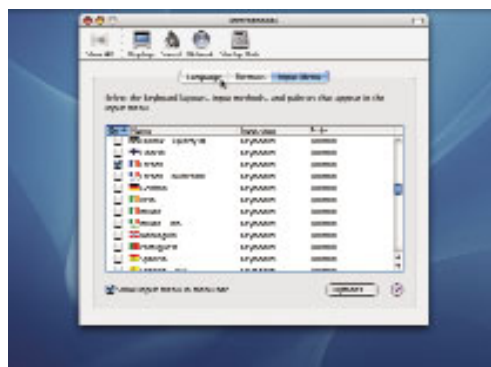
**Opening accounts**  
**The Accounts pane**  
In this tutorial, we're assuming that you've already set up multiple user accounts on your Mac. Once you've done this you can access the 'Accounts' pane via 'System Preferences' to enable fast user switching.

## Step-by-step OS X Set up a multiple language account



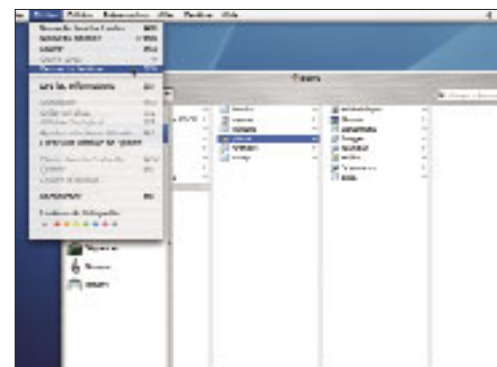
### 1: Create a new account

Create a new account in the 'Accounts' pane. Log in to that account and click on the flag on the menu bar. Scroll down and select 'Open International'.



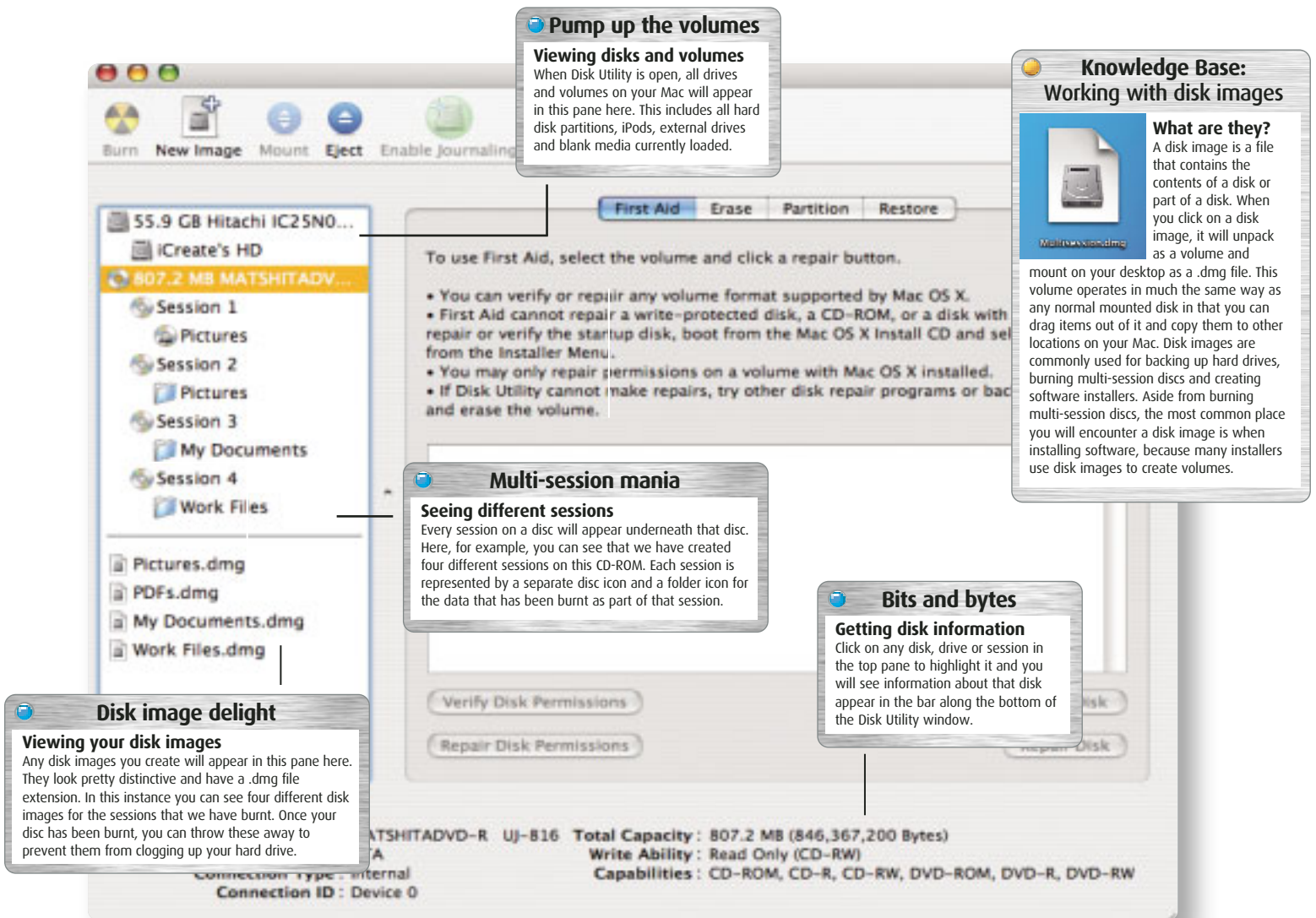
### 2: Flag it up

Use the 'Input Menu' tab, select a flag for the user account, in this case French. Click on the 'Language' tab and drag 'Francais' to the top of the list.



### 3: Allez France!

You now have a user account set up in French with a French keyboard layout. More importantly, you can get to it in a jiffy with fast user switching.



## Tutorial: Creating multi-session discs

The ability to create multi-session CDs and DVDs is one of OS X's best-kept secret. We show you how Disk Utility will enable you to get the most from your blank media



**Task:** Burn data to a CD more than once

**Difficulty:** Expert

**Time needed:** 30 minutes

Ever since Apple dispensed with floppy disk drives, Mac users who want to back up small amounts of data have been faced with a tricky choice. Should we burn a 50Mb document to CD-R and waste the other 600Mb of space or should we use a more expensive CD-RW disc that can be erased and used again?

Programs such as Roxio's Toast ([www.roxio.com](http://www.roxio.com)) solve this problem by allowing Mac users to create multi-session CDs and DVDs. This means that data can be recorded to your blank media bit by bit, just like copying files to a hard drive. It's fine if you only want to burn 200Mb of data to a CD or DVD to start with because the rest of the space can still be written to at a later date.

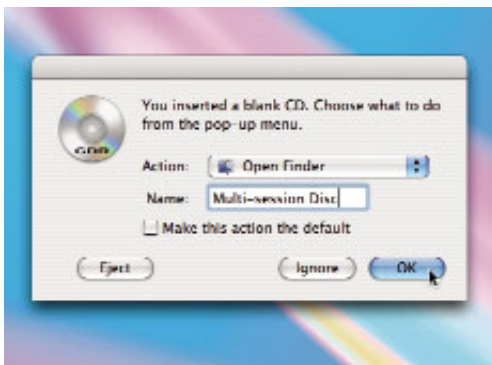
Apple makes plenty of noise about how the Mac OS allows you to burn discs straight from the Finder, but one thing Steve Jobs and co

don't tell you is that thanks to a little program called Disk Utility, you can actually burn multi-session discs in OS X. In fact, Apple has done such a bad job about bringing this feature to the attention of its users that the instructions in Mac Help are incorrect.

What Mac Help doesn't tell you is that in order to create multi-session discs you have to create disk images for each session. Seeing as this isn't the sort of thing most Mac users do every day and it isn't straightforward, we've put this tutorial together to show you how it's done. All you need to follow our advice is a blank CD, CD-RW, DVD-R or DVD-RW, which has been formatted in the Extended Mac OS format (most Mac-compatible discs have), and Disk Utility, which you'll find lurking inside the 'Utilities' folder of your 'Applications' folder. Let's go...

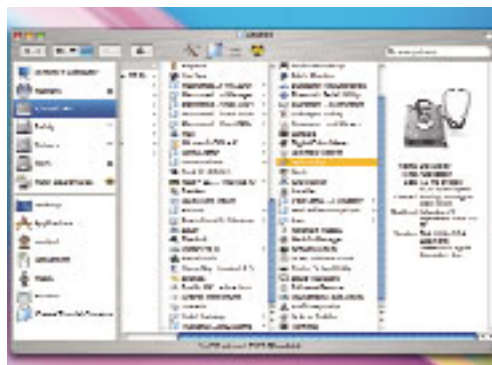


## Step-by-step OS X Create multi-session discs



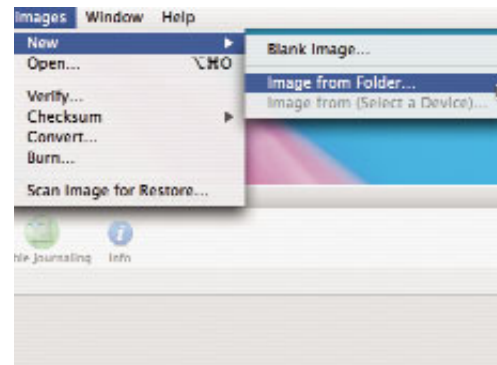
### 1: Pop in a disc

Create a folder for the data to burn and then pop in a blank disc and hit 'OK' when the prompt appears. Even a humble CD-R can become a multi-session disc.



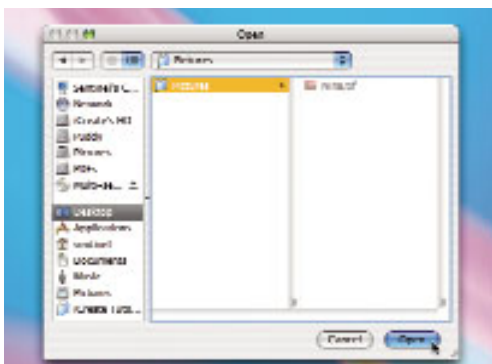
### 2: Open Disk Utility

Now let's open Disk Utility. You'll find this program sitting in 'Utilities' inside your 'Applications' folder. Double-click the icon to launch it.



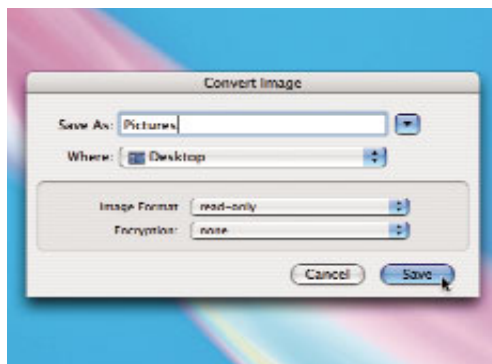
### 3: Creating a disk image

Here comes the technical bit. When Disk Utility launches, click on the 'Images' menu and scroll down to 'New', 'Image from Folder'.



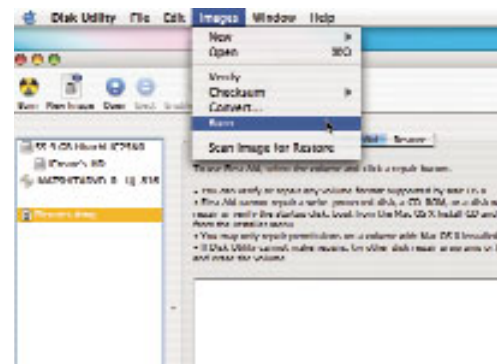
### 4: Find your folder

When the 'Open' dialog appears, navigate to the folder that you created in step one which contains the data you wish to burn. Hit 'Open'.



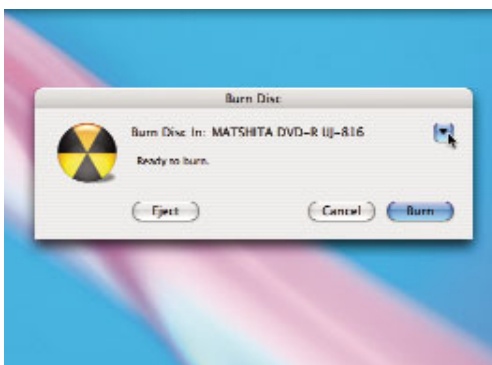
### 5: Convert the image

We'll now convert the folder to a disk image. Rename if appropriate, save it to the desktop as 'read-only' with 'Encryption' set to 'none' and click 'Save'.



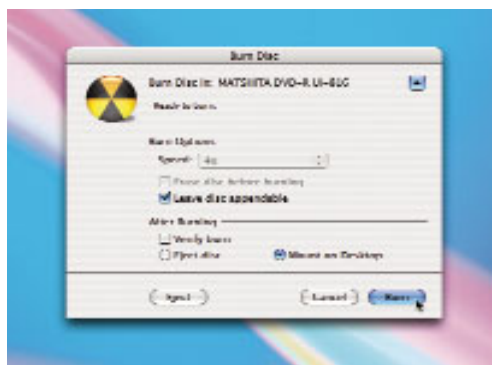
### 6: Seeing your disk image

In the main pane of the Disk Utility window, you'll see your Disk Image on the left. Highlight it with a click. Now click on the 'Images' menu and pick 'Burn'.



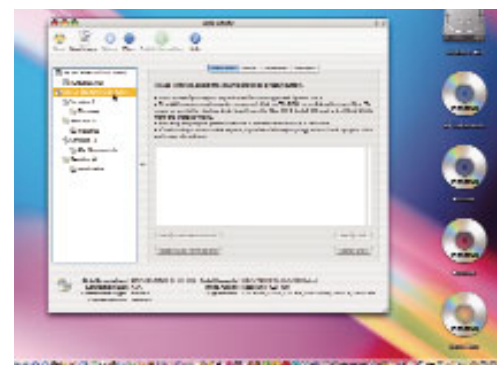
### 7: Getting more options

It's now time to burn the disk image to your blank media. Well, actually it's not quite time. Click on the downwards pointing triangle to reveal more options.



### 8: Burn it up

There's a magic option that activates multi-session disks and all you have to do is click 'Leave disc appendable'. Select 'Mount on Desktop' and hit 'Burn'.



### 9: Repeat after me

The first session will now burn. Create more sessions until your disc is full. When the disc is mounted, you will see a disc icon on your desktop for each session.

# Tutorial: Working with files in Panther

Learn how to manage the files on your Mac and you'll be on your way to managing the Mac OS itself. Here we show you some of the numerous ways that you can stay in control of your documents

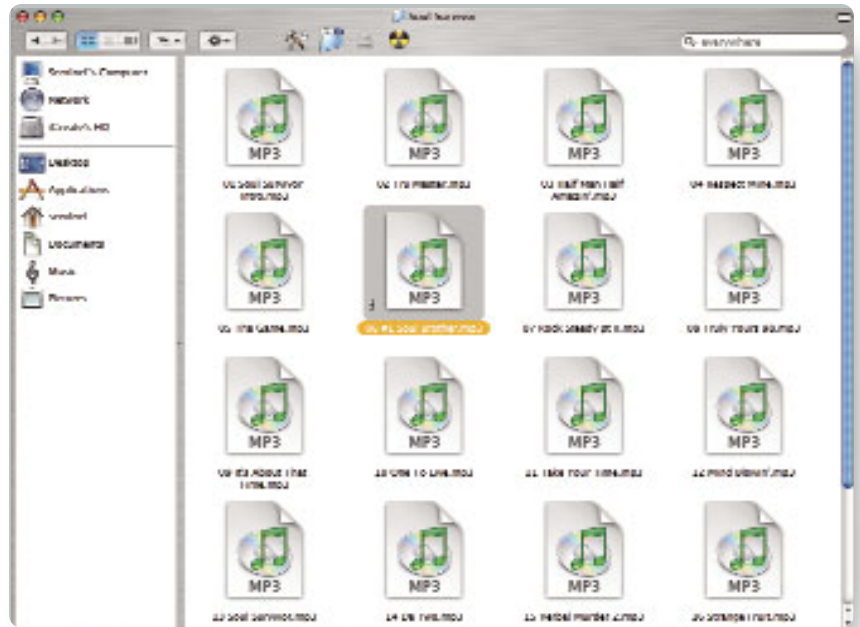


**Task:** Learn how to work with files in OS X

**Difficulty:** Beginner

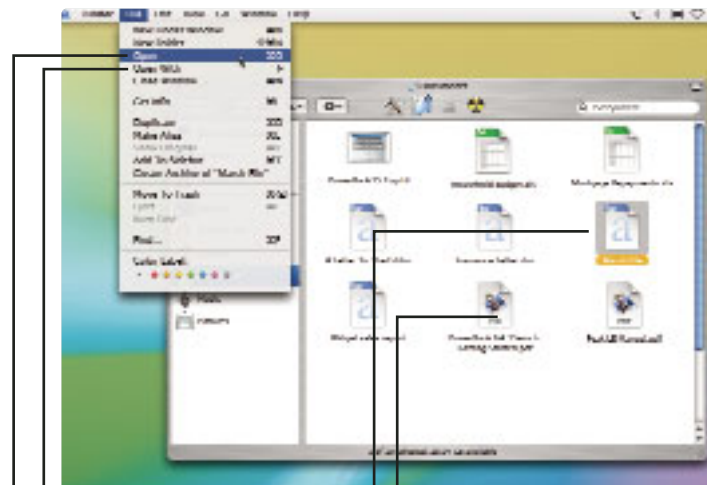
**Time needed:** 10 minutes

X Files are neither the most exciting nor the most glamorous thing about the Mac OS, but without them nothing would work. Learning how to use and handle files should therefore be the first priority for any Mac newbie. Not only will getting to grips with the nuances of arranging and applying actions to files help you learn more about your Mac, it will also speed up your productivity, allowing you to spend more time being creative and less time worrying about the directory structure of your computer. In this tutorial we'll show you how to perform the most common file actions and help you to make sense of the way your Mac arranges files.



## Step-by-step OS X Learn how to manage your files in OS X

### 1: Opening files



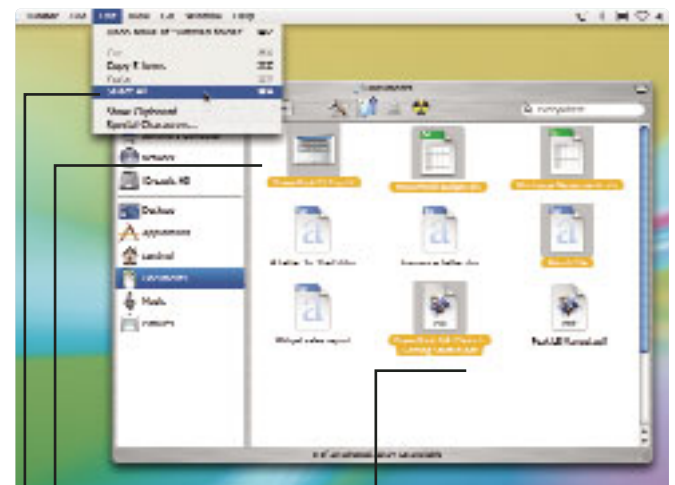
The 'File' menu's 'Open With' feature allows you to browse for a particular application to open a file with.

Another way to open a file is by highlighting the file in question with a single click, clicking on the 'File' menu and then scrolling down to 'Open'.

To open a file, simply double-click on its icon and it should open in the application which it was created in.

Yet another way of opening a file is to hold down the 'Control' key on your Mac's keyboard and click on it. Select the 'Open' option from the pop-up menu.

### 2: Selecting files



To select more than one file, click somewhere above the files and drag your mouse over the files you wish to select.

Another way to select all of the files is to highlight the folder or directory the files are in, and click on 'Edit', 'Select All'.

To select a group of files in 'Column' view, hold down 'Shift' and click the first file in the list you want and the last one. All the files in-between will be selected. To choose random files without selecting all of the files in-between, hold down the 'Apple' key and select each file individually.



## Find out how OS X keeps your files organised

**Simple storage**  
**Ready-made folders**  
Panther's 'Finder' window makes it easy to keep your files organised. Double-click on your hard drive to create a new Finder window and you'll see folders in the sidebar for your music, documents and pictures.

**Make it yours**  
**Adding items to the sidebar**  
The easiest way to ensure that you can always find the files you want when you want them is to customise the sidebar and the folder hierarchy. Just because Apple set it up like this doesn't mean you have to keep it that way. Simply drag your most frequently used folders to the sidebar for one-click access.

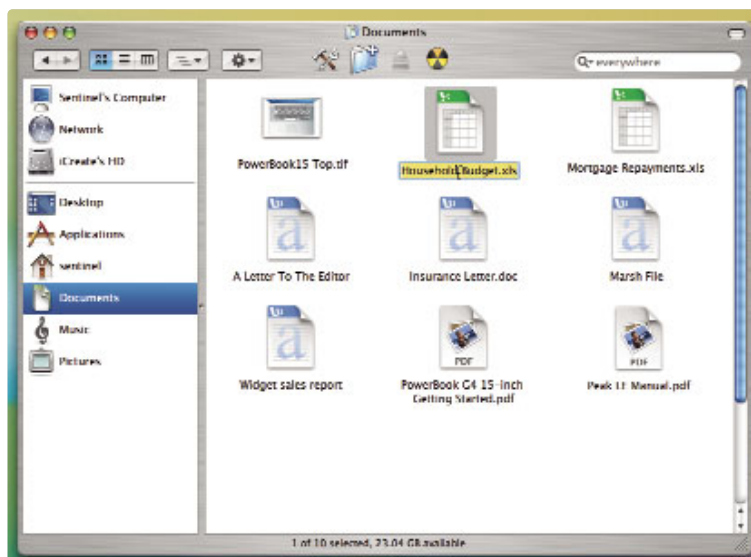
**A trip to the library**  
**Your personal storage**  
The sidebar isn't the only place Apple gives you to store files. Navigate down to your 'User' folder and you find another folder called 'Library' inside. This stores further folders for everything from Fonts to Music files.

**Find it fast**  
**Tracking down files**  
Digging through your entire hard drive to find one elusive file might sound difficult but Panther's search feature makes it easy. Type the name of the file you are looking for and Panther will search as you type.

**Knowledge Base: Creating archives**  
**Backup bonus**  
One of Panther's new features is the ability to create archives of compressed files. These archives contain squashed versions of normal files and are ideal for saving hard drive space or emailing big files as attachments. You can create an archive by highlighting a file or folder, holding down the 'Control' key and selecting 'Create Archive of...' from the contextual menu. It's worth pointing out, however, that you will not get great results by compressing digital music files or JPEG images because these files are already heavily compressed. You may also encounter problems when sharing these files with Windows users whose computers have difficulty translating this type of file.

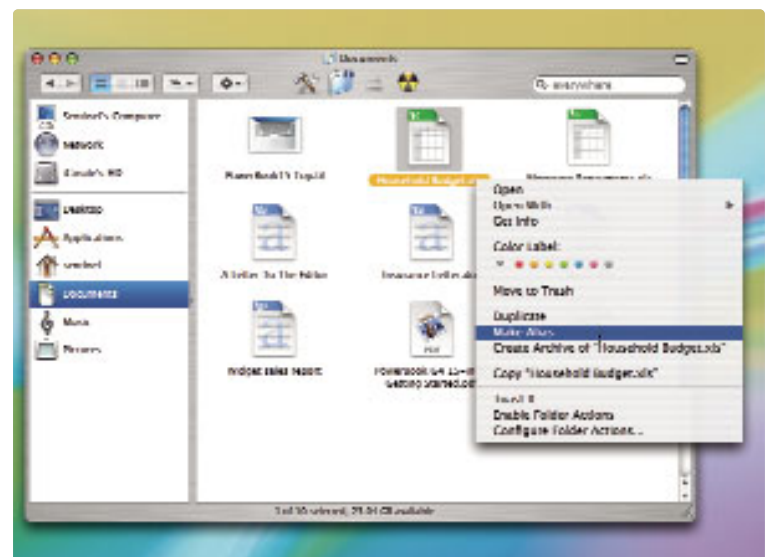
**Name and number**  
**Getting information about files**  
To find out more about a file, just highlight it with a click. This will tell you what type of file you have selected, what format it exists in, how big it is and, in the case of multimedia files, will even show a preview.

### 3: Renaming files



It's easy to rename a file. Click once on the name of the file underneath the icon and you'll see a box appear around the file name and the text will be highlighted. Type in your new name and hit 'Return' to make changes. You can even copy and paste text here if you wish.

### 4: Action stations



You can apply all manner of functions to a file by holding down the 'Control' key and clicking (or by highlighting a file and using the 'Actions' button). Here we're creating an alias of this commonly used file so that we can store shortcuts on the desktop and in the 'Dock'.

# Tutorial: Protect your Mac with Intego's Net Barrier

With hacking threats in this broadband age continuing to grow, we show you how to be safe rather than sorry by installing and running a firewall system on your Mac

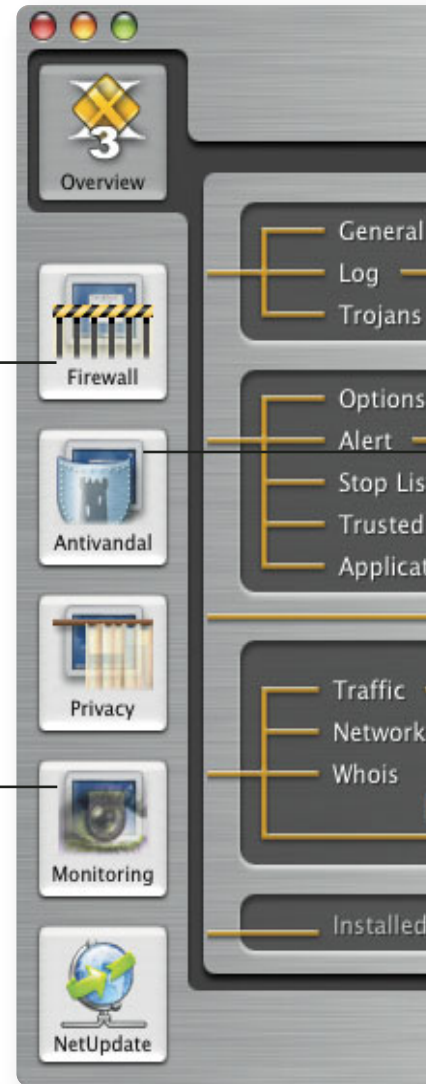


**Task:** Secure your Mac with Intego Net Barrier  
**Difficulty:** Intermediate  
**Time needed:** 30 minutes

Mac users have always been rather blasé about Internet security. We believe that viruses only happen to people who use Windows and treat the possibility of being hacked with disdain. But if you're running OS X and connect to the Net on a regular basis, you've got every reason to be worried. Broadband and wireless networks are prime targets for hackers and the Terminal application in your Utilities folder gives hackers the opportunity to control your Mac with Unix prompts, so it makes sense to stay protected. Fear not, though, because a solution is at hand in the shape of Intego's Net Barrier firewall. This vital application will secure your Mac from hackers, dodgy scripts and even privacy invasions. Better still, there's a 30-day trial of version 10.1.3 on the CD for you to try.

**Building a wall**  
**Net Barrier's firewall**  
 Clicking on this tab will give you access to Net Barrier's firewall settings, which we've shown you how to configure below. One thing we didn't cover in the walkthrough is the Logs feature, this shows you how many times Net Barrier has detected a security breach and records the details for your perusal.

**Somebody's watching you...**  
**Monitoring your network**  
 System administrators or anybody in charge of a network of Macs can monitor the network's activity by clicking on this tab. There's even a screensaver which allows you to monitor your Mac when it is not in use!



## Step-by-step OS X Setting up a firewall

### 1: Setting up the firewall



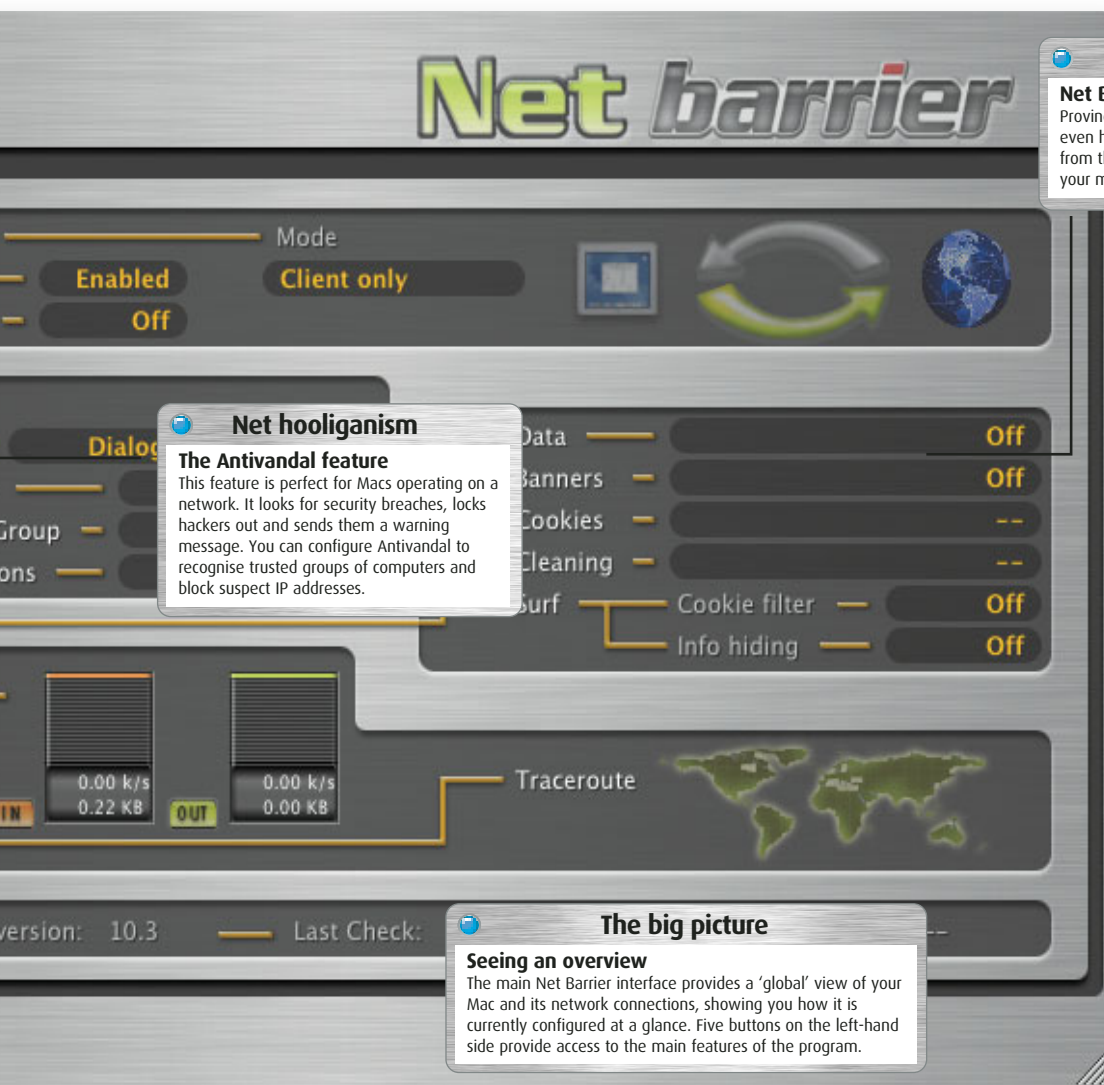
### 2: The expert option



Once you've followed the instructions for configuring Net Barrier (see above right), launch the program and click on the 'Firewall' tab. Now you can choose how you want the firewall to work. Here we're set up to block anything coming from the Internet to our computer.

Operating in 'Client only' mode is safe, but it is also inflexible. If you're comfortable fiddling with more advanced settings, select the 'Customized' option. Highlight the 'Input' tab to determine how content reaches your Mac from the Net. Click on the 'Assistant' button to get some help.





**Safe from prying eyes**

**Net Barrier privacy**  
 Proving that Net Barrier is an all-round Internet security system, you even have control over any cookies and banner adverts downloaded from the Web by Internet Explorer and Safari. Click here to configure your machine.

**Net hooliganism**

**The Antivandal feature**  
 This feature is perfect for Macs operating on a network. It looks for security breaches, locks hackers out and sends them a warning message. You can configure Antivandal to recognise trusted groups of computers and block suspect IP addresses.

**The big picture**

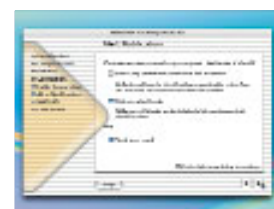
**Seeing an overview**  
 The main Net Barrier interface provides a 'global' view of your Mac and its network connections, showing you how it is currently configured at a glance. Five buttons on the left-hand side provide access to the main features of the program.

**Setting up Net Barrier**  
 Setting up and configuring Net Barrier is relatively simple, thanks to the questions you will be asked by the program's Setup Assistant. These determine what kind of setup you will need and configure your Mac so that it is ready to use. Here we walk you through how it works.



**1** The first screen wants to know what type of computer you installed Net Barrier on, which determines how strong the level of protection applied is. We're installing the program on a home computer.

**2** Next you'll be asked what type of hardware you use to connect to the Net. If you have a cable modem you will need a special configuration to use Net Barrier. We're using our Mac's built-in modem.



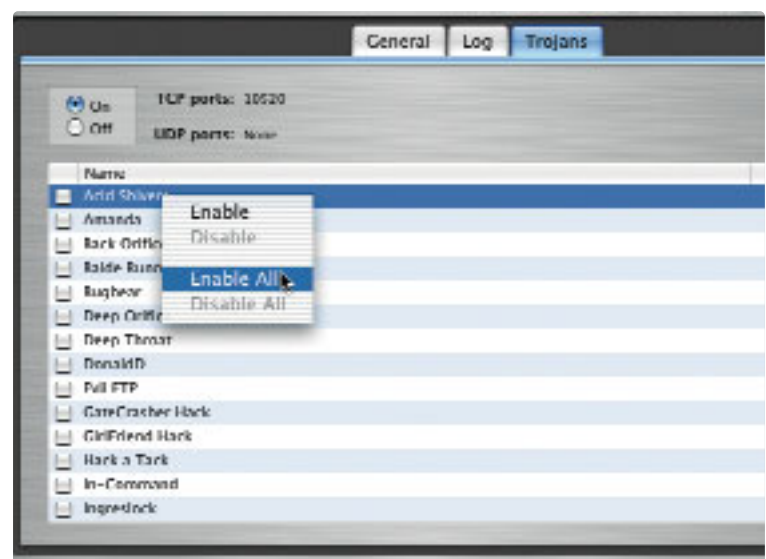
**3** The next window allows you to decide how Net Barrier will notify you if it detects a breach of security. Here we're asking the program to flash an alert. You can also request a report by email.

### 3: Creating a rule



You're now given the option to set up a 'Rule' which determines what your Mac will allow and what it will deny. Choose the criteria you want, in this case to block any Internet Relay Chat connections, and then choose whether to 'Allow' or 'Deny' them. Click 'OK' when you're done.

### 4: Blocking Trojans



Trojans are viruses or dangerous applications that get on to your Mac via an unsuspected host program, most often a file-sharing client. Click on the 'Trojans' tab and then select the 'On' button. Now Control-click on the first Trojan listed and select 'Enable All' from the menu.

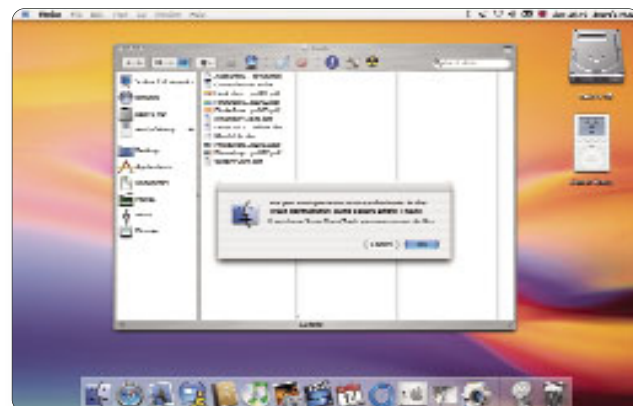
# Tutorial: Working with the Trash

Why let files you no longer need clutter your hard drive when you can simply remove them with OS X's intuitive Trash feature? We reveal all

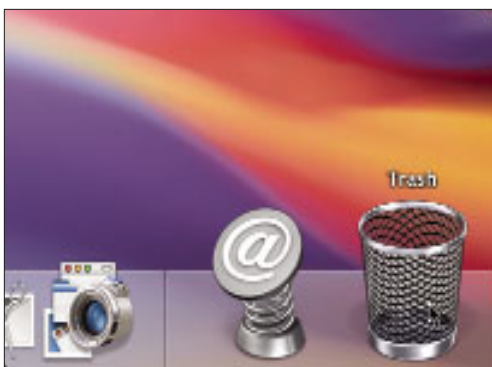


**Task:** Learn how to use the Trash feature in Panther  
**Difficulty:** Beginner  
**Time needed:** 5 minutes

X Even with today's multi-gigabyte hard drives, managing disk space is still important. That's why Macs come with a feature called 'Trash', which allows you to throw away unwanted files. The Trash acts like any other folder, in that you can move things in and out. When you place a file in the Trash, however, it's not gone: like your household refuse, a final act of throwing away is required. In addition to the 'Empty Trash' feature, there's also a 'Secure Empty Trash' option available from the 'Finder' menu in the latest version of OS X, Panther. Using this deletes a file directly from the disk space where it resides, meaning that even the most powerful disk tools will be unable to recover it.



## Step-by-step OS X Using the Trash feature



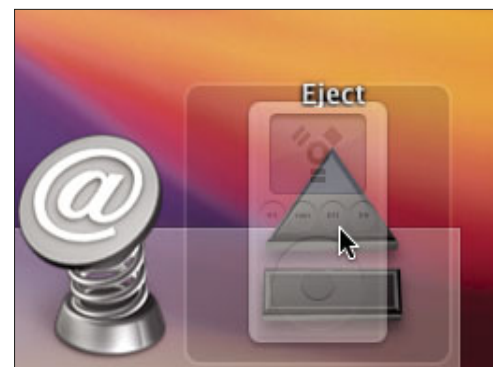
### 1: Finding the Trash

The Trash is represented by a wastepaper basket icon, which you'll find at the right end of the Dock, and is the only item that you can't remove.



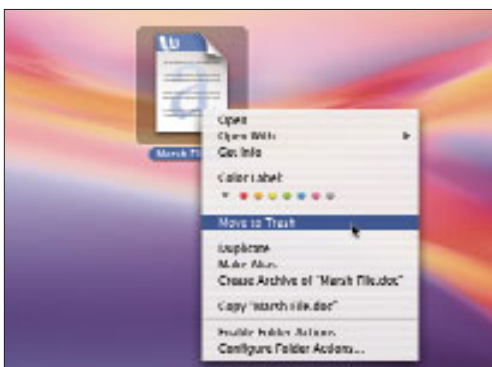
### 2: Deleting files

Getting rid of files you no longer need is simple. Drag the file in question on to the Trash icon until it darkens, and then let go of the mouse.



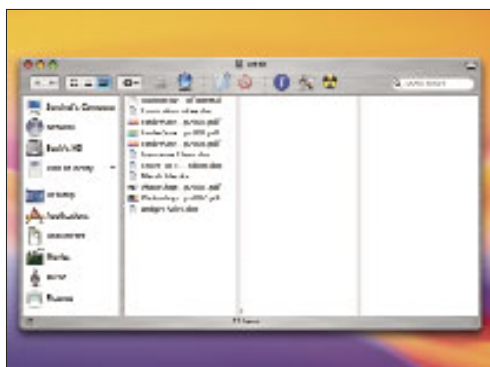
### 3: Multiple uses

The Trash icon sometimes looks different. When you eject a mounted disc, such as a CD or iPod for example, it will turn into an 'Eject' icon.



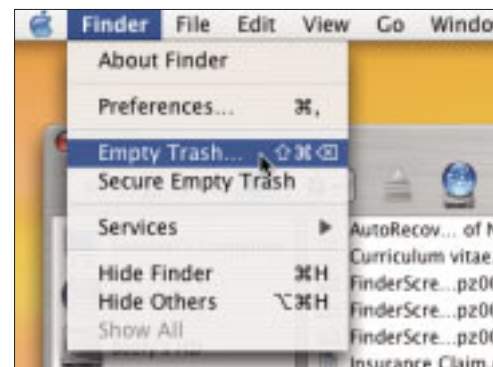
### 4: Another way

A quick way of sending an item to the Trash is to hold down the 'Control' key and click on it. Choose 'Move to Trash' from the pop-up menu that appears.



### 5: What's in the bin?

The Trash acts just like any other folder, in that you can drag things in and out at will. Double-click the 'Trash' icon to reveal its contents in the Finder.



### 6: Gone for good

Empty the Trash by selecting 'Empty Trash...' from the 'Finder' menu or by pressing the 'Shift', 'Apple' and 'Delete' keys. Hit 'OK' when the warning appears.



# Your questions answered

Even the most user-friendly OS X application can throw the occasional spanner in the works. Learn some damage control here...



## Contact

If you have a question, don't hesitate to get in touch at:

## email:

icreate@icreatemagazine.com

## post:

iCreate  
Highbury Entertainment Limited  
Paragon House  
St Peter's Road  
Bournemouth  
BH1 2JS

## Multiple movies



My wife and myself recently invested in a digital camcorder and a PowerBook to create movies showing our baby daughter's progress. I have no problem with capturing the actual footage, and have so far created a different movie for each month. What I'm wondering is how, or even if, I can export more than one movie to burn on a single DVD and set chapter markers for each different movie. I would be very grateful for your help, and so would my wife and several relatives who are waiting patiently for their promised DVDs!

**Peter Speller**  
Croydon

**A** Peter, it's time to reward those DVD-hungry relatives. iDVD will happily allow you to burn separate movies onto one DVD disc and even give each movie its own chapters. You can also assign different themes to the movies so that they have their own distinct interface. The only thing to be aware of is that you're limited to a running time of 90 minutes before the DVD is full. However, you should still be able to fit lots of footage of her formative months onto one shiny DVD disc. (Lucky 21st century babies with their own DVD documentaries – our childhood records are a few snaps stuck in a dusty old album!)

Start off by thinking how you want to organise your movies. We're presuming that you want to keep each month of your baby daughter's life as a separate film. Edit the movies for each month in iMovie and then assign any chapter markers you like (eg in month one you might have a chapter for the birth, one for meeting the family and so on). We see from your mail that you already know how to set chapter markers in iMovie for iDVD to read. For those readers who are yet to have a crack at exporting their iMovie content to DVD, click on the 'iDVD' icon in the iMovie 3 interface. It's then a simple matter of moving the time slider to any frame in the 'Timeline' and clicking 'Add Chapter'. You can also name the chapters here (ie 'Baby Emma's First Step'). Once you've created a



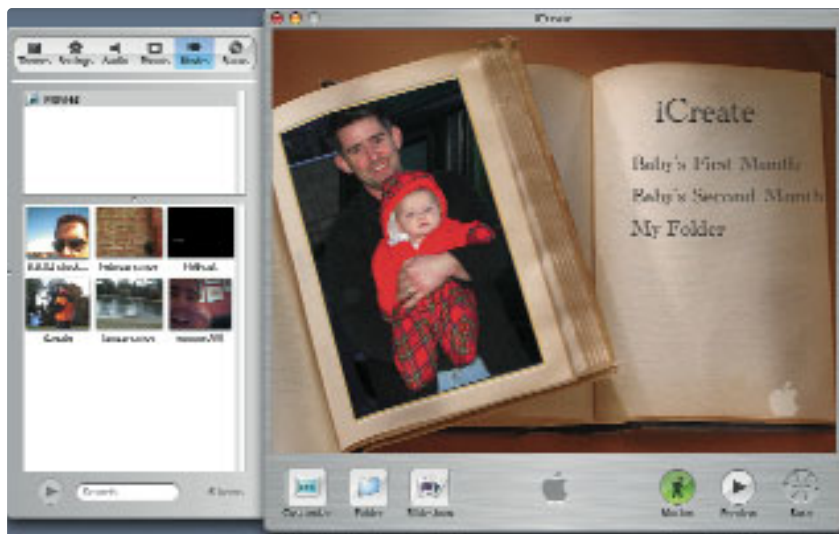
**Each folder allows a movie to have its own uniquely themed interface and chapters**

movie covering one topic (which in your case will be a complete month), create a new iMovie project covering the second month and add chapter markers to that. You'll then have two separate movies that you can place on one DVD.

When your movies are edited and all the relevant chapters have been added in iMovie, you are ready to get to work in iDVD 3. This is really easy to do, because iMovie 3 has a button that sends your edited movies straight to an iDVD 3 project – just click on 'Create iDVD Project' and off you go. iDVD 3 will automatically create a scene selection menu based on the chapter menus you

created in iMovie 3. Ah, the joy of compatible Mac applications!

Now to get down to the nitty-gritty. You can put multiple movies on one DVD by creating separate iDVD folders for each movie. Let's say you've got one edited movie covering your baby's development in January and another movie covering February. Import all the movies you want to place on a DVD into iDVD and then click on the 'Movies' tab to see them as icons. Now drag them into the main window and click on the 'Folder' button at the bottom of the interface. This adds an extra icon called 'My Folder' to the DVD interface in the main pane. Click on the 'Folder' button that has appeared in the main window and type in the topic of the movie that the button is going to link to (eg 'Baby's first month'). To add content to the folders, double-click on the 'Folder' button in the main interface and drag the relevant movie (or movies) into the main window. Click on the 'Play' button to see a preview of your movie and click the red 'Back' arrow to return to the main menu. If you want to add another movie to the disc, just repeat the process and label the new folder accordingly ('Baby's second month' perhaps?).



**To create multiple movies in iDVD 3, click on the 'Folder' icon. This gives you links to separate movies**

The cool thing about having buttons in the main interface link to separate movie folders is that these folders can have their own specially themed menus and even their own chapter headings. This allows each folder to behave like a unique mini DVD in its own right. To apply different themes, go to the movie folder you want to customise and click on the 'Theme' icon. You can then choose from a variety of themes to apply to each of your movie folders. Your audience will be able to choose which movie they want to see by clicking on a folder button. They'll then be presented with a specially tailored interface for each movie.

## Multi-region woes

**X** I have just purchased my first iMac after many years of using a PC. There are a number of things that I need to become familiar with, but for now I would appreciate some advice on a particular problem I have come across when trying to play multi-region DVDs.

I have a warning come up which gives me limited (a maximum of four and decreasing) opportunities to change regions. This is obviously going to be a major problem, particularly as I have a number of DVDs that I've purchased from the States. Can I turn this off and if so, how do I do it?

Paul  
Email

**A** The short answer is no. You can't disable the region warning. Rather like having three wishes from a genie, Apple has only given you a limited number of chances to play multi-region discs. And unlike some other features, there isn't a cunning little trick you can employ to persuade your machine into playing multi-region discs over and over again. (Well, in the darker recesses of the Web there are people talking about using utilities to change your machine's Firmware. As this is a risky thing to do and would invalidate your Mac's warranty, it's not something we encourage).

This tedious region-locking situation boils down to big bucks. As you know, when it

## Converting to MP3



I've just purchased iCreate 3 and in the 'Disappearing iPods' question (page 46) you mention that I can convert my iTunes music to MP3s so I can burn an MP3 disc. After selecting my tune and choosing the 'Advanced' menu, the only option is to convert to AAC. I'm trying to burn the music from my PowerBook to a CD that my wife can listen to on her PC or in our car. In the 'Importing' section of 'Preferences', I have 'AAC' selected. It was the default. When I select 'Preferences', 'Burning', and choose 'MP3', the PowerBook says OS X can't recognise the CD-R I have inserted.

Kenneth E Farver  
Email

**A** Your 'Advanced' menu is only letting you convert your tunes to AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) format because the 'Import' option has been set to that format. iTunes won't allow you to burn AAC files to disc

in MP3 format, which is probably why you're getting problems with the CD-R being unrecognised. To solve this problem, go to 'iTunes,' 'Preferences,' 'Importing' and set the 'Import' option to 'MP3'. (Don't worry that you've already imported all your songs to AAC.) Now go to a playlist containing AAC format songs and Control-click on the selection. You'll see an option to convert the selected songs to MP3. Once converted, you'll need to go to the 'Library' and find the MP3 duplicates. (At this stage you'll experience some confusion because the MP3s have the same name as the AAC files) Place the recently converted MP3 versions into a new playlist. Go to 'iTunes,' 'Preferences,' 'Burning' and set the 'Disc' format to 'MP3 CD'. You'll then be able to happily click on the 'Burn Disc' icon and give your wife that MP3 CD.



To export AAC files to MP3, set your preferences as shown. Then you can burn to CD and have music on the move in your car stereo

comes to DVDs the world has been divided up into regions or zones. Here in the UK we're Region 2 and your USA discs are Region 1. Due to the delay in major films



**Hooray for Hollywood? Not really, thanks to being forced to lock our Macs to one region**

hitting our shores, Hollywood doesn't want us buying DVDs of its latest blockbusters from the USA because this will affect ticket sales when the films finally open in the UK. This means makers of PC DVD players are forced to lock their machines to specific regions. Because Apple doesn't know which country its machines will end up in, it gives us five chances to change region before the machine locks permanently. To defeat piracy there's a growing trend for films to be released worldwide at the same time. If this becomes the norm, hopefully later versions of Apple's software DVD player will be free of the dreaded region-locking problem.

## Apple updates

To make sure you have the latest updates, click on the little 'Apple' icon at the top left of the screen. Choose 'Software Update' from the pull-down menu and if you're connected to the Web, this utility will go and get the latest updates required by your Mac. You can then install them.



### Mac OS X Update 10.3.1

This update enhances functionality and improves reliability for FileVault, Printing, WebDav, and FireWire 800 drives. It also includes the latest Panther Protecting Security Updates. They provide useful functions such as stopping online scallywags getting unauthorized access to Safari's cookies.

### Bluetooth 1.4.1

Bluetooth 1.4.1 for Mac OS X enhances the stability of Bluetooth connections. This release also improves Bluetooth performance with human interfaces devices (HIDs), and includes enhancements to wake Bluetooth equipped devices from 'Sleep' mode.

### Power Mac G5 Firmware Update 5.1.4

This allows changes for initialising and running your PowerMac G5 (if you're lucky enough to have one). It also provides performance improvements for some PCI-X configurations, patches a hole in security and improves fan behaviour in Open Firmware.

### Java Update 1.4.1

If you did an upgrade install (instead of an erase install) of Panther from 10.2, then you may have an incomplete installation of Java. This update for Panther ensures that your system has a complete Java installation. It contains support for both Java 1.4.1 and Java 1.3.1.

### iDVD 3.0.1

This update provides improved performance and stability for encoding, burning and managing your DVD projects.

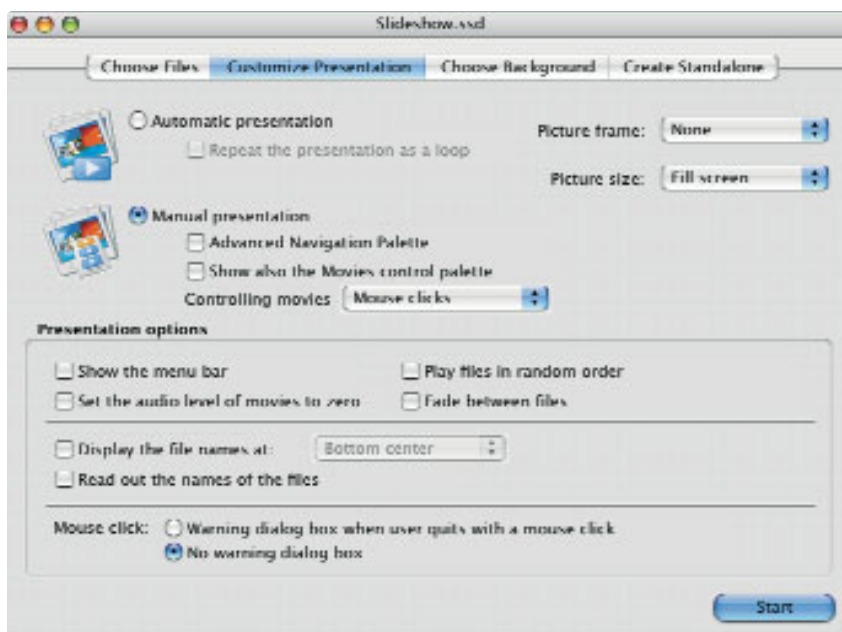


## Super slides

**X** I am looking for software to produce slideshows from my photographs. I want to display the shows to a large-ish audience using a Mac laptop driving a digital projector (at highest resolution possible). Quality of the projected image is of prime importance. I want the ability to vary the display timing and the dissolve timing on a slide-by-slide basis and also to have some simple editing control on an accompanying audio track.

**Richard Wood**  
Email

**A** You mention in your email that you experimented with iMovie, but couldn't get the resolution or framing you required. You could have also tried iPhoto, which would do most of what you require, apart from manually triggering the next slide in the sequence. There are some packages that could do everything you want, though. Apple's Keynote is one such application. But as Keynote is also an 'all-singing, all-dancing' multimedia presentation package with graphs and pie charts etc, we felt this was overkill when all you need is a straightforward image presentation package with an accompanying soundtrack. As firm believers in the maxim 'the right tool for the job', we went in search of a dedicated Mac slideshow product. And we found a nifty



Slideshows can be made even easier using Apimac Slide Show, available from [www.apimac.com](http://www.apimac.com)

shareware application called Apimac Slide Show 6.0.1. Unlike iPhoto, this application enables you to customise your image presentation by controlling it manually. You can chat about a photo for as long as you want, and then click the mouse to advance to the next image. The intuitive interface is carbonised to take advantage of OS X, the result being you'll immediately feel at home.

You can knock up a slideshow in seconds by importing a folder of photos. You can also choose to display a picture at its actual size (with an optional customisable border), or get it to automatically fill the screen. You can also create standalone versions of your slideshow that will run on both Mac and PC. As it's shareware, take it for a free test drive to see if it'll suit your needs. If you like it,

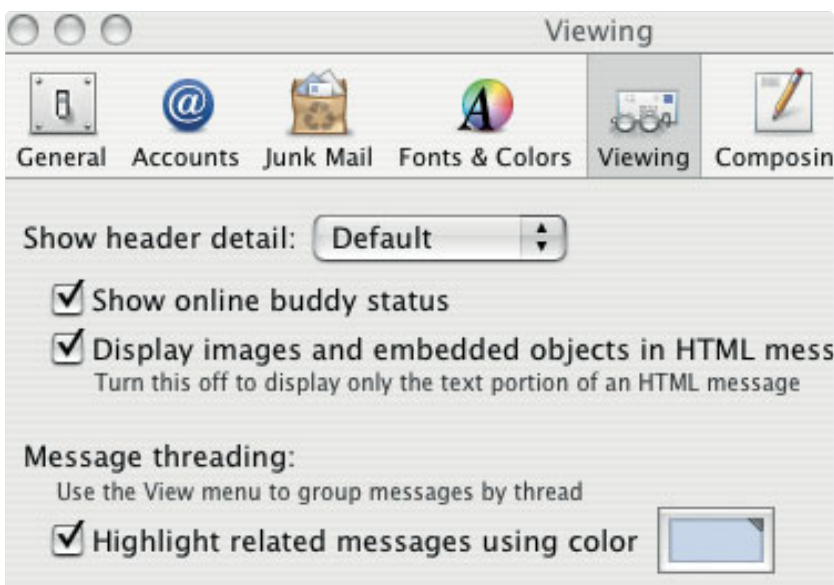
## Missing images



I have a display problem in Mail. When I get newsletters sent to me, little question mark icons replace the images. Is this a memory issue? How do I up the amount of memory allocated to Mail?

**Michael Tennant**  
Aberdeen

**A** This has nothing to do with memory. Mail running under Panther uses the Safari rendering engine to quickly and accurately render HTML-based mail. However, because of the overwhelming tide of HTML-related junk mail washing up in our mailboxes, the Mail package is set to not automatically display graphics in HTML-based mails. There's a good reason for this. Many images embedded in junk mail can tell the spammer that you received the mail. Loading the images can also reveal more information about your address, when you opened the message and so on. If you want to raise your head above the radar and risk more spam, you have two options to enable you to see images in messages. If the HTML mail is already in the 'Junk' folder, click on the 'Load Images' button just above the message window. To see HTML images in all of your mails, go to 'Mail', 'Preferences', 'View'. Here you can tick or un-tick the 'Display images and embedded objects in HTML messages' option.



Need to display HTML content in received mails? Turn on the display images and objects option

you'll have to part with \$29.99. The only thing Apimac Slide Show won't do is dissolve between shots, although it will fade to black between each image, which provides a similar transitional function. For such a cheap package, it's surprising that the Apimac Slide Show software will also include QuickTime movies in the presentations. Get more information from [www.apimac.com](http://www.apimac.com).

### iDisk sync problem

**X** I am using Mac OS X 10.3 and the new iDisk, linking from the desktop to the Internet-based iDisk. Here's the problem – I have linked the two together and chosen 'Manual sync' (due to my modem speed). After this is completed, I cannot manual sync the two items together after I have placed new items on my desktop iDisk. There is nothing in the 'Finder' to enable a manual sync. It would appear that I can't make the two iDisks work together. I would be grateful of assistance as I must be doing something wrong or missing out some process.

**Mike Gunnill**  
Upchurch, Kent

**A** Hmm. Sounds like you've found the iDisk settings in the 'System Preferences' window and set the iDisk syncing to 'Manual' without a hitch. You say there is nothing in the 'Finder' to enable a manual sync. This sounds like you can't see the 'iDisk' icon in the 'Finder' toolbar. Here's how to display the icon. With the 'Finder' open, go to the top menu and choose 'View', 'Customize toolbar'. You can then drag the 'iDisk' icon to the 'Finder' toolbar. There should also be a little 'sync' symbol next to the 'iDisk' icon. This will be greyed out when you're not connected to the Web, but will appear solid when a connection is in place. The beauty of iDisk (for those that haven't tried it out yet) is the fact that you can place files in the desktop-based version of your iDisk when you are offline. When you are on the Web, your Mac will look at the differences between your desktop and your online iDisk and sync them together. As you've chosen 'Manual sync', you'll need to click on the little 'sync' symbol. This will prompt the Mac to sync both versions of your iDisk together.

### iPhoto .AVIs



Congratulations on a superb magazine. I have a problem I hope you can help me with. I have just changed from OS 9.2

### Mail HTML



I would like to include a hyperlink to my site in the signature part of my email. How can I do this?  
**Vincent Murphy**  
Email

**A** Adding a hyperlink to a Web site in your Mail signature is pretty straightforward. Simply go to Mail's 'Preferences' and then click on the 'Signatures' icon. Type whatever text you want to include in your signature, including the URL of your site. Type a test email to yourself. The signature will be added automatically to the bottom of the text. When you open the received test mail you should see that the URL text in the signature is now underlined as an active clickable link. You don't need to type the full 'http://' address in the signature – the 'www' prefix will do just fine. When the recipient of your letter clicks on the link, it will automatically open their Web browser and take them to your site. If you want to experiment with more HTML-related Mail effects, you'll need to be a .Mac member. You can then access a Web-based version of Mail, which allows you to view your email as raw HTML source code. This will let you tweak the HTML (as long as you know what you are doing with raw code, that is).



**Mail automatically converts URLs in the body of the text to active hyperlinks**

to OS X. I want to bring all my photos over from my Fuji FinePix viewer to iPhoto 2, but when I do it will not recognise my .AVI files. Is there a solution to this? Please advise.

**Andy Nyman**  
Email

**A** It's not uncommon for people to take a few short movies on their digicam, import the camera contents into iPhoto and then erase the camera contents before wondering where their movies have gone. Put simply, iPhoto doesn't read .AVIs. It's just not its job. Most digicams record the movies in AVI format, so you can see where the problems lie. The good news is that even though you tell iPhoto to erase the camera's

content after importing, the .AVIs will still remain untouched on the camera's memory card. (They'll also be taking up valuable card space, but at least they're still intact!) To access your .AVIs from a camera, look for the camera icon on the desktop. Treat it like a folder and open it. Inside (after a quick root around the contents), you'll find any .AVI movies taken with the camera. Simply drag them to the Mac's 'Movie' folder and then double-click on each movie to play it. For you to see your .AVI's stored by the FinePix viewer, you'll need to do a search to find where they are located on your hard drive. You should then be able to move them to the 'Movie' folder and play them using your Mac's QuickTime player.



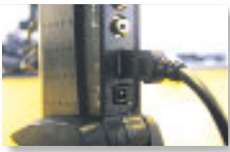
**iPhoto isn't interested in .AVI movies shot on your digicam. You're going to have to open the 'Camera' icon on the desktop to access them**





# Tutorial: Transfer a VHS tape to digital video

Don't let your collection of VHS tapes go to waste. Discover how they can be converted into digital video footage, edited in Final Cut Express and even recorded to DVD discs



## Aims of this section

**Task:** Capture video footage from a VHS tape and layer clips

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Time needed:** 2 hours



With a SuperDrive-enabled Mac, it is now possible to create home DVDs that look just as good as those bought in the shops. As you play these home-made DVDs, a trusty old VHS player probably still sits underneath the stylish DVD player as a reminder of the analogue past. But what should you do with the collection of VHS home movies you've collected over the years? The answer lies in the form of an analogue to digital converter. This nifty device sits between a Mac and a VHS player enabling you to capture VHS tapes directly into your video-editing software.



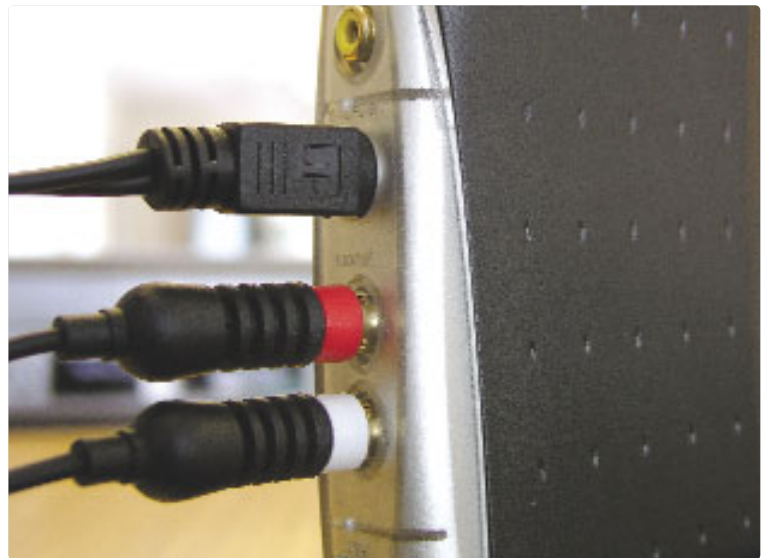
## Step-by-step Final Cut Express Capturing analogue footage

### 1: Connect the converter



Start by attaching the AD converter to a spare FireWire socket on your Mac and plug the device into the mains. The analogue video footage will be converted into a digital form and sent down the FireWire lead in exactly the same way as your digital camcorder.

### 2: Connect VHS recorder



Now connect the VHS player to the AD converter using either the phono or S-video leads. If your VHS player only has a European SCART socket, you will need to purchase a SCART adaptor with an Input and Output switch. These are available from most electronic stores.

## Importing analogue footage with Dazzle

**Sock it to them**

**Input sockets**  
The input sockets are located at the front of the AD converter with an equal set at the rear for output.

**Going digital**

**Video-in socket**  
The yellow phono socket is used to transfer analogue video from the VHS player into the AD converter, where it will then be converted into a digital format.

**Make the link**

**FireWire socket**  
The AD converter has two FireWire sockets. This one is used when recording digital video to a VHS tape. For converting a VHS tape to digital video, use the equivalent socket on the rear of the device.



**Knowledge Base: AD converters**

**Building bridges**  
This tutorial was written using the most popular AD Device on the market, The Dazzle Hollywood DV Bridge. Dazzle has been recently bought out by Pinnacle and its new range uses USB 2.0 connections that are not Mac compatible. If you can't get hold of a Hollywood Bridge, a good alternative is the ADVC100 from Canopus. Find out more about the product from [www.canopus.com](http://www.canopus.com).

**S club**

**S-video-in socket**  
If your video recorder has an S-video connection, it's best to use this socket for the highest possible quality.

**For the ears**

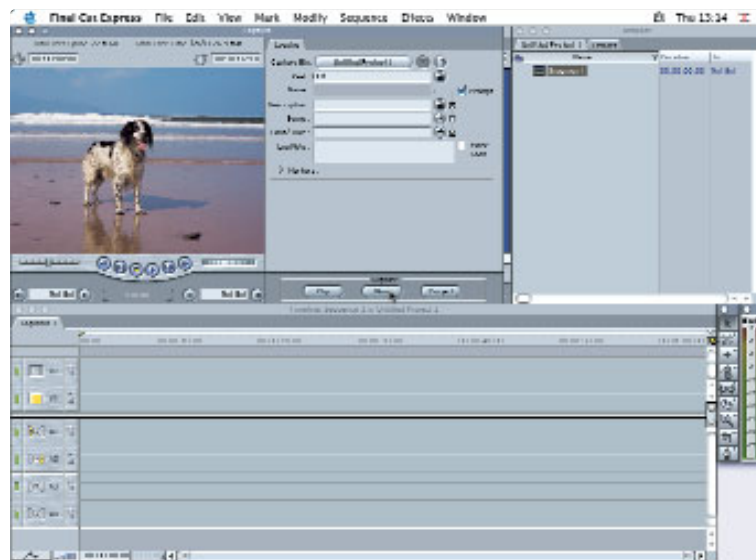
**Phono-in sockets**  
Two phono sockets are used for transferring the left and right audio signal from the VHS tape.

### 3: Cue up the VHS tape




The AD converter works by mimicking a digital camcorder, so the capture process is exactly the same as normal. The only difference is that the shuttle won't work in Final Cut Express, so you must rewind the tape and press 'Play' using the controls on the VHS player.

### 4: Import into Final Cut Express



With the VHS player playing the tape, it is now a case of importing the footage in Final Cut Express as normal. The analogue tape will be converted to a digital signal by the AD converter and captured to the hard drive in exactly the same way as using a digital camcorder.





**Knowledge Base:**  
**Using opacity**

**What you see and what you don't**  
Opacity is the ability of an object to obscure light. A window has very little opacity allowing you to see through it, whereas a brick wall has lots of opacity – blocking everything behind it. Lowering the opacity of a video clip enables you to see the video clip on the track below.

**Stack them up**  
**Video tracks**  
Final Cut Express can play up to 99 different video clips at once. These are stored on tracks numbered V1-V99. Video on a higher numbered track will obscure the ones below.

**Position the effects**  
**Keyframes**  
Keyframes are points on the 'Timeline' where an effect changes. The keyframes on the 'Opacity Overlay' line show how the level of transparency will change as the clip plays.

**Opacity**  
**Clip overlay button**  
Click on this button to display the 'Opacity Overlay' line. It will appear in the clips in the 'Timeline'.

**Transparent issue**  
**Opacity overlay**  
The Opacity Overlay is a line that runs along through each video clip displaying how transparent the video is. Dragging the line down makes the clip more see-through, allowing video clips underneath to appear.

## Tutorial: Using multiple layers of video

Did you know that FCE is capable of playing 99 different video clips at once? Discover how working with several layers of video can add new dimensions to a movie



**Task:** Add layers, alter opacity and adjust the scale of video clips

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Time needed:** 60 minutes



Alongside customisable transitions and video effects, it is the number of audio and video tracks that can be played which elevates Final Cut Express above iMovie. Whereas iMovie has just the one video track, FCE allows you to play up to 99 different pieces of video at the same time.

Using multiple video tracks enables you to create far more stylish video effects. For example, the tracks can be used to have different screen-in-screen effect which you can see examples of in news or sports programmes. Taken to extremes, it can even be used to show multiple events at once – a style that has been made popular by the television show, 24.

To create multiple layers of video, you need to stack video tracks on top of each other, which are numbered V1, V2, V3 and so on. Unlike audio tracks where all the sounds would play at once, the

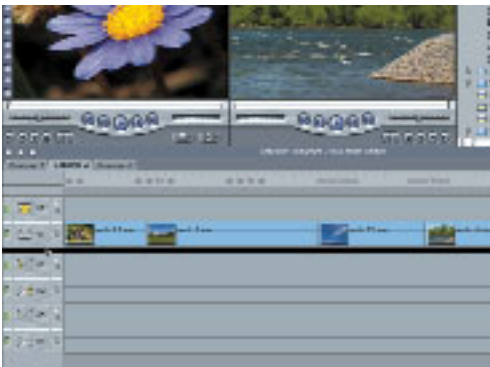
video clip with the highest number obscures all clips below it. So if you place clips on track V1, V2 and V3, it is the clip on V3 that you will see playing.

There are two main ways that you can see more than one video clip on screen. The first is to adjust the opacity level of the uppermost clip to make it transparent. As soon as you make this top clip transparent, you can see the one below. This has a similar effect to the cross dissolve, except it can be accurately controlled.

The second method is to adjust the size and position of the uppermost clip. By making a clip smaller, you can position it to sit in the screen with the clip below showing. Adjusting the scale and distorting clips in FCE is actually far easier and more intuitive than in most other editing programs.

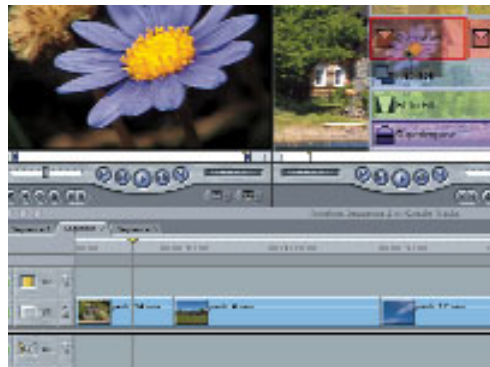
Read on to discover how you can begin to place several clips on screen at once and create some stunning effects.

## Step-by-step Final Cut Express Using multiple layers in FCE



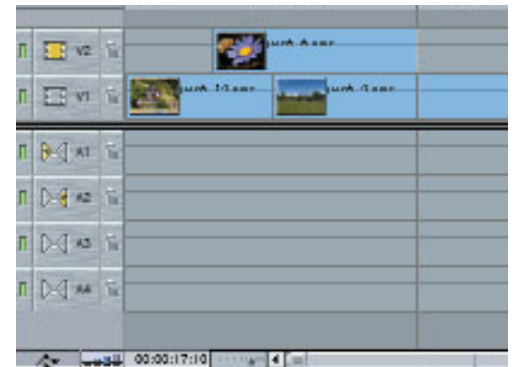
### 1: Select a track

Start with a collection of clips on track V1. To add extra video clips to track V2, click on the 'Film' icon next to track V2 to designate it as the editing track.



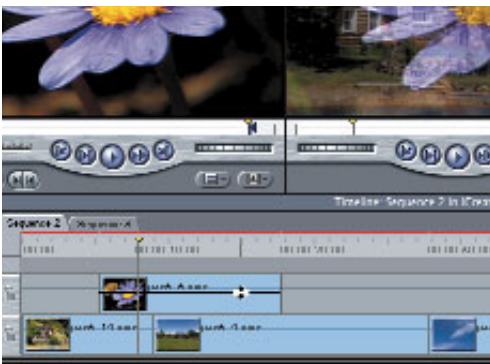
### 2: Add clips

Move the edit line to the point where the clip is to be added. Drag the clip from the 'Viewer' to the 'Browser', making sure to select 'Overwrite'.



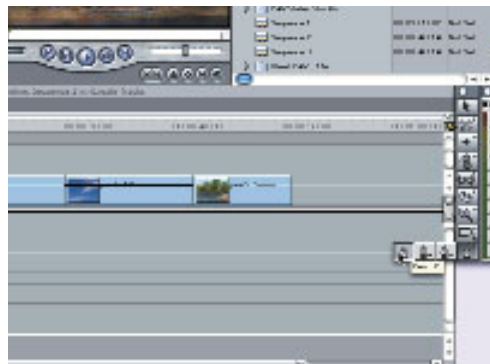
### 3: Reveal clip overlays

The clip on track V2 will obscure the one on track V1. To adjust the opacity of this clip, click on the 'Clip Overlay' button at the bottom left of the 'Timeline'.



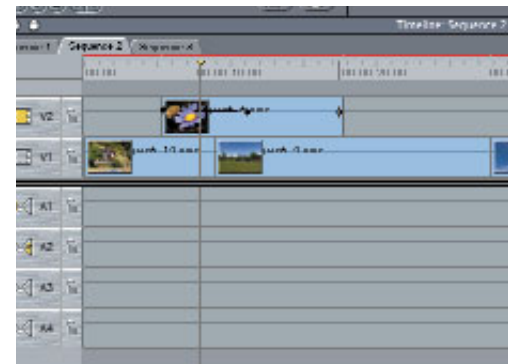
### 4: Alter opacity

Now drag the black 'Opacity' line down until it is in the middle of the clip. Both clips will appear in the 'Preview' window.



### 5: Select the 'Pen' tool

The next step is to add keyframes. These are points that determine how a line changes over time. Start by going to the toolbar and selecting the 'Pen' tool.



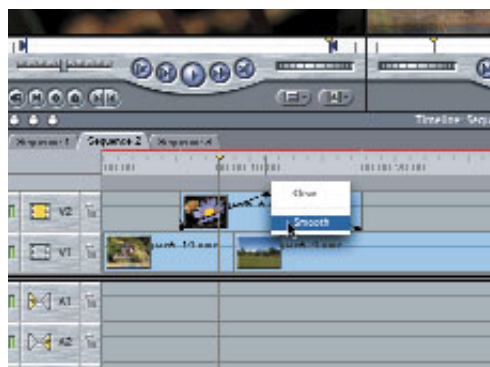
### 6: Add keyframes

With the 'Pen' tool highlighted, add keyframes by clicking on the 'Opacity Overlay' line. Add keyframes at the start, end and middle of this line.



### 7: Adjust keyframes

Each keyframe can be moved up and down to adjust the opacity as the clip plays. Move the end keyframes to the bottom, and the middle ones to the top.



### 8: Smooth it out

Make the effect more gradual by holding down 'Ctrl' and clicking the middle keyframe. Select 'Smooth' to turn the straight lines into a gentle curve.

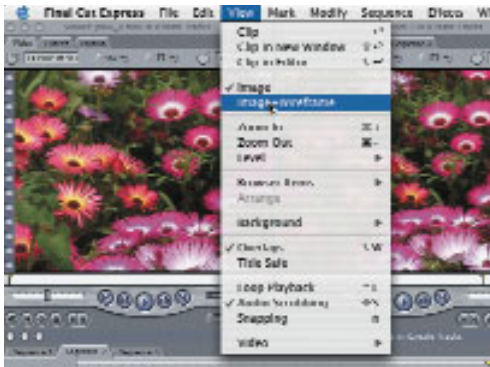


### 9: Render and watch

With the 'Opacity Overlay' set as a curve fading the clip in and out, it's time to render. Click on the clip to highlight it and choose 'Sequence', 'Render Selection'.



## Step-by-step Final Cut Express Using multiple layers in FCE



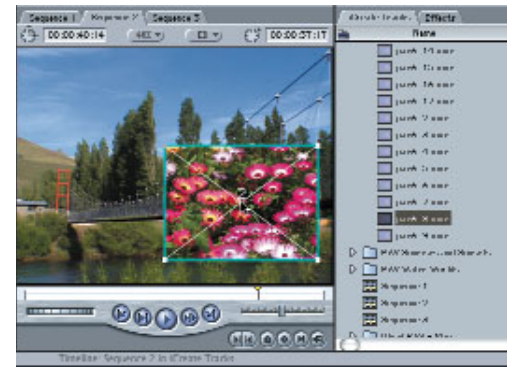
### 10: View the Wireframe

We have added a second clip to track V2 and want to adjust its scale and position. Begin by selecting 'View' and 'Image+Wireframe' from the menu.



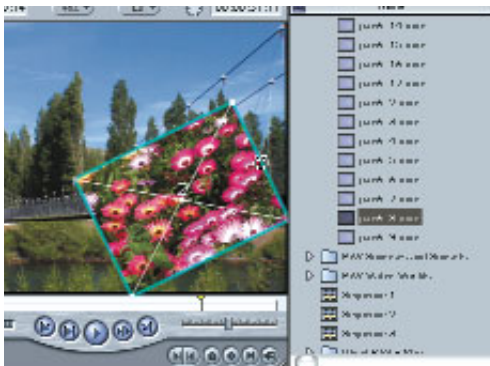
### 11: Alter the scale

The Wireframe places anchor points at the corners of the video clip in the 'Canvas'. Ensure the clip on track V2 is highlighted and drag the points to reduce its size.



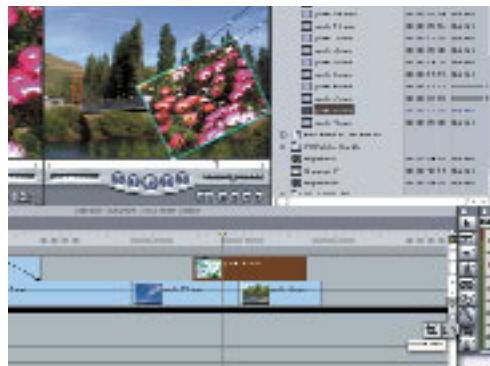
### 12: Alter the position

The scaled down clip can now be moved to a new position. Place the cursor in the middle of the clip and drag it to a new part of the 'Canvas'.



### 13: Rotate the clip

Clicking on the edges of the square enables you to rotate the clip. You'll see the cursor turn into a circular 'Rotate' icon.



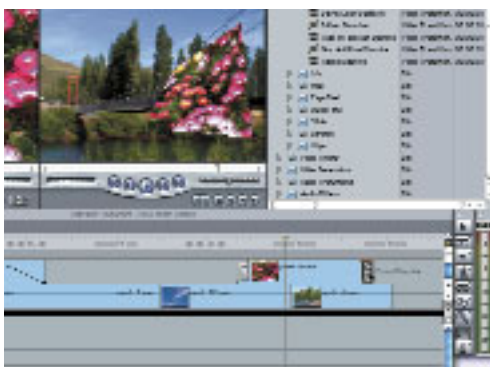
### 14: Advanced distortion

The clip can be distorted even further using the 'Distort' tool. Highlight this by clicking on the second from the bottom tool and selecting 'Distort'.



### 15: Distort clip

With the 'Distort' tool highlighted, the anchor points at the corners of the clip can be independently dragged to give the clip an angled look.



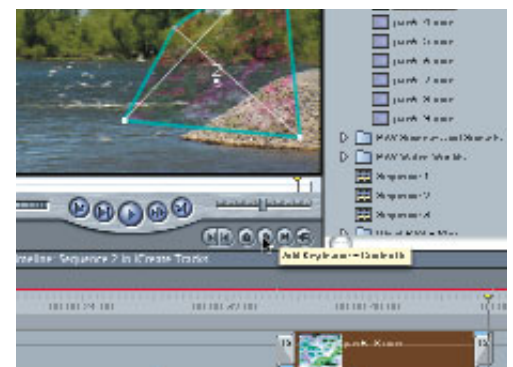
### 16: Add a 'Cross Dissolve'

Because the smaller screen looks so different to the main screen, it's wise to add a 'Cross Dissolve' (from the 'Effects' menu) at the start and end of the clip.



### 17: Fine-tuning

You can fine-tune settings in the 'Motion' window. Double-click a clip to bring it up in the 'Browser' and click on the 'Motion' tab to see numerical values.



### 18: Adding keyframes

Adjust the settings over time by adding keyframes with the 'Keyframe' button in the 'Canvas' window. Add two keyframes near the start and end of the clip.

## Working with multiple tracks

**Progress report**  
See how things are shaping up  
The canvas shows the movie as it is progressing. With the 'Image+Wireframe' setting selected, you can adjust the scale, position and rotation of a clip.

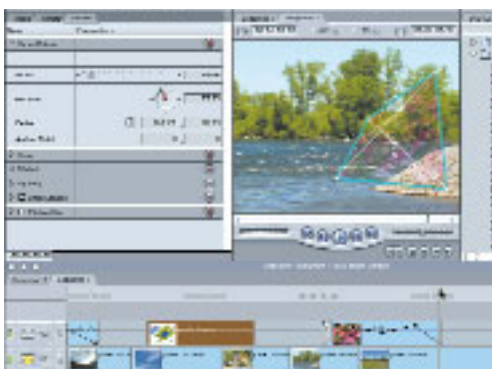
**Set them up nicely**  
**Motion settings**  
Motion settings can be found under the 'Browser' window. All settings for scale, position and rotation can be found and adjusted here.

**Get moving**  
**Add a motion keyframe**  
Motion keyframes can be added to a clip using this button here. The clip will then animate from the different settings of each keyframe

**Point it out**  
**Wireframes**  
With 'Image+Wireframe' selected as the 'View', clips in the 'Canvas' will appear with anchor points and lines showing the direction of the image's Motion settings.

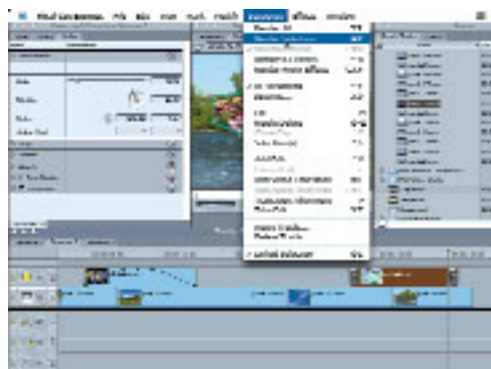
**Knowledge Base: Keyframes**  
**The top dog**  
As the name suggests, a keyframe is a frame on the 'Timeline' given more importance than others. Keyframes are designated in different ways for 'Opacity' and 'Motion' but the result is the same – any effect settings slowly adjust from one keyframe to the next.

**One at a time**  
**Edit line**  
The 'Edit' line is used to select individual frames on the 'Timeline'. Keyframes will be set at the current position of the 'Edit' line.



### 19: Adjust clip

You can move between the keyframes using 'Shift' or 'Option' and 'K'. Move to the last keyframe and adjust its position and distortion in the 'Canvas'.



### 20: Select and render

Hold down 'Shift' and click the 'Cross Dissolve' transitions at the start and end of the clip. Now choose 'Sequence', 'Render Selection'.



### 21: Play it back

Once everything's rendered, it's simply a case of pressing 'Play' in the 'Canvas' to see the video layers fade in and out and move around the screen.



# Reason 2.5: Create a simple movie soundtrack

Learn how to make beautiful music with this OS X-friendly piece of music software



## Aims of this section

**Task:** Create a basic soundtrack in Reason

**Difficulty:** Beginner – intermediate

**Time needed:** 60 minutes



If you've read our 'Make music on your Mac' feature (page 36), you may remember that we mentioned Propellerhead's Reason software. In layman's terms, this wondrous program is a studio in a box. It provides all the tools you would find in a modern recording studio only for a fraction of the price, and if you install it on an iBook or PowerBook, you're free to make music wherever you are.

Reason does have a bit of a daunting reputation, but if you concentrate on the basics, you can quickly build up your level of expertise. In the following four pages, we're going to guide you through the Reason interface and show you what you need to do in order to make a basic soundtrack using a series of loops. These are simply a repeated pattern of music.

Once you've created your track (we've included our finished version on this issue's CD), you can easily export it as an audio file to use in video-editing software such as Final Cut. It really is worth composing your own music for any films you make, because you can match the mood and pace of your footage perfectly. Plus, it's a fun way to improve your understanding of music software!



## reMIX Mixer

The mixer, which has to be added first (see walkthrough opposite), is linked to all the instruments in the interface. It can adjust the levels, treble and bass controls of each instrument. Clicking the 'M' button above the faders will mute that instrument; the 'S' will play it solo.

## Knowledge Base: Control your tempo



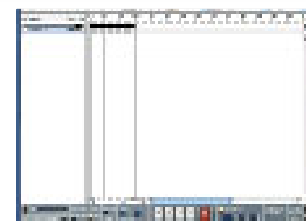
### Keep things smooth

At the bottom of the Reason interface is the 'Transport' bar, which contains the playback controls and recording settings as well as the tempo control. The tempo is very important in any music creation, but is especially so in Reason. You will notice that when a loop opens in Dr.REX (Reason's loop player), it shows a 'Loop Tempo' at the top of its display. The tempo here, displayed in BPM (beats per minute), is the speed this loop should play at. A few beats out either way won't hurt, but too much and the loop will sound silly. Make sure you alter the tempo control to suit your loops or vice versa to sustain melodic bliss. Simply click the up or down arrows on the 'Tempo Display' to make adjustments.



## Timeline

The 'Timeline' is the heart of your Reason track and lists each instrument down the left side. Events, such as notes or loops being played, are displayed across the main 'Timeline' area. The 'Left' and 'Right' loop markers are also found on the 'Timeline'. These are marked 'L' and 'R' respectively and help plot drum loops.





## Dr.REX loop player

Dr.REX is one of the simplest, yet diverse, elements of Reason. It basically plays any loops you add, whether they're ones supplied in Reason, or ones you have downloaded from the Internet. When you're feeling more confident, you can use Propellerhead's ReCycle software to create your own loops ([www.propellerhead.se](http://www.propellerhead.se)).



## Set up the rack

Reason is so dedicated to authenticity that anyone making the move from audio hardware to audio software will feel right at home. But what about anyone without previous musical experience? Fear not; follow this guide to setting up the Reason interface and before you know it, you'll be churning out beats to die for.



**1** Open an empty Reason rack and choose 'Mixer 14:2' from the 'Create' menu. This is where all your audio is mixed and without this mixer, none of the music you create will be heard.

**2** From the 'Create' menu, choose 'Dr.REX Loop Player'. This will now be added to the bottom of your mixer and will be used to play drum or music loops in your Reason song.



**3** Click the folder on the Dr.REX interface to open the 'REX File Browser' and choose a loop. We used 'So Funky' from the 'RnB Hip Hop' folder. Now click 'Open' to load the loop.

**4** Move the left-hand marker on the 'Timeline' to the beginning of the track and move the right marker to bar 21. Now click 'to track' on the Dr.REX to add the loop.



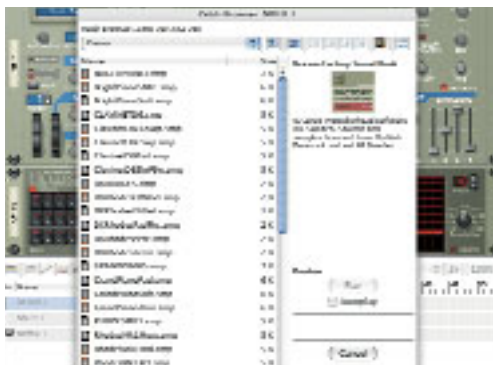
**5** From the 'Create' menu, select 'NN-19 Digital Sampler'. On the NN-19 that appears, press 'Apple', click the mouse, and then choose 'Matrix Pattern Sequencer' under 'Create' on the menu that appears.

**6** Press 'Play' on the 'Transport' bar. The 'Matrix' will run but won't make any sound and the drum loop will repeat when it reaches the right marker. Now set the 'Tempo' to '90' on the 'Transport' bar.



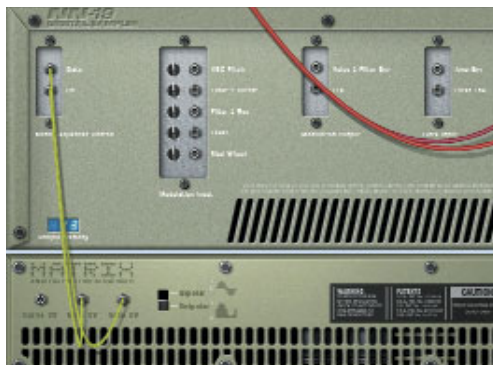


## Step-by-step Reason 2.5 Create a soundtrack in Reason 2.5



### 1: Instrumental choice

Click the 'Browse Patch' button and choose from any of the instruments in the 'NN-19' folder. We chose the 'Grand Piano' patch for our melody.



### 2: Enter the Matrix

To check the 'Matrix' is connected to the 'NN-19', hit the 'tab' key. Now make sure two yellow cables run between the 'Matrix' and the 'NN-19'.



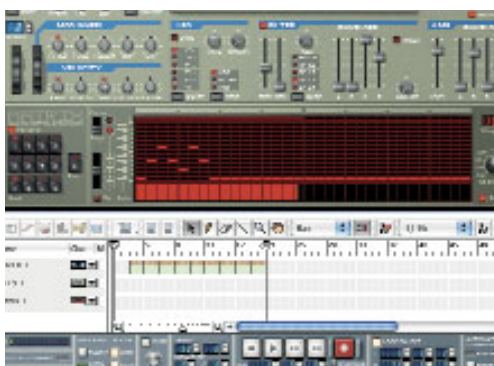
### 3: Note plotting

The 'Matrix' window allows you to plot notes by clicking the corresponding box on the interface. The slider to the left moves the view up or down an octave.



### 4: Note velocity

The larger boxes determine the velocity of a note and are called 'Gates'. The 'Tie' box makes the gate twice the width and lengthens the note.



### 5: Make a melody

Start by copying the sequence of notes and gates shown here into the 'Matrix'. To hear how the pattern sounds, simply click the 'Run' button to play it.



### 6: Another instrument

Create another 'NN-19' and 'Matrix' combination as before and select the 'Grand Piano' patch. Now click on the original 'Matrix' pattern and press 'Apple', 'C'.



### 7: Paste the pattern

Click on the empty 'Matrix' and press 'Apple', 'V' to paste across the original pattern. Now press 'Apple', 'U' a total of 12 times to raise the pattern's pitch.



### 8: Come together

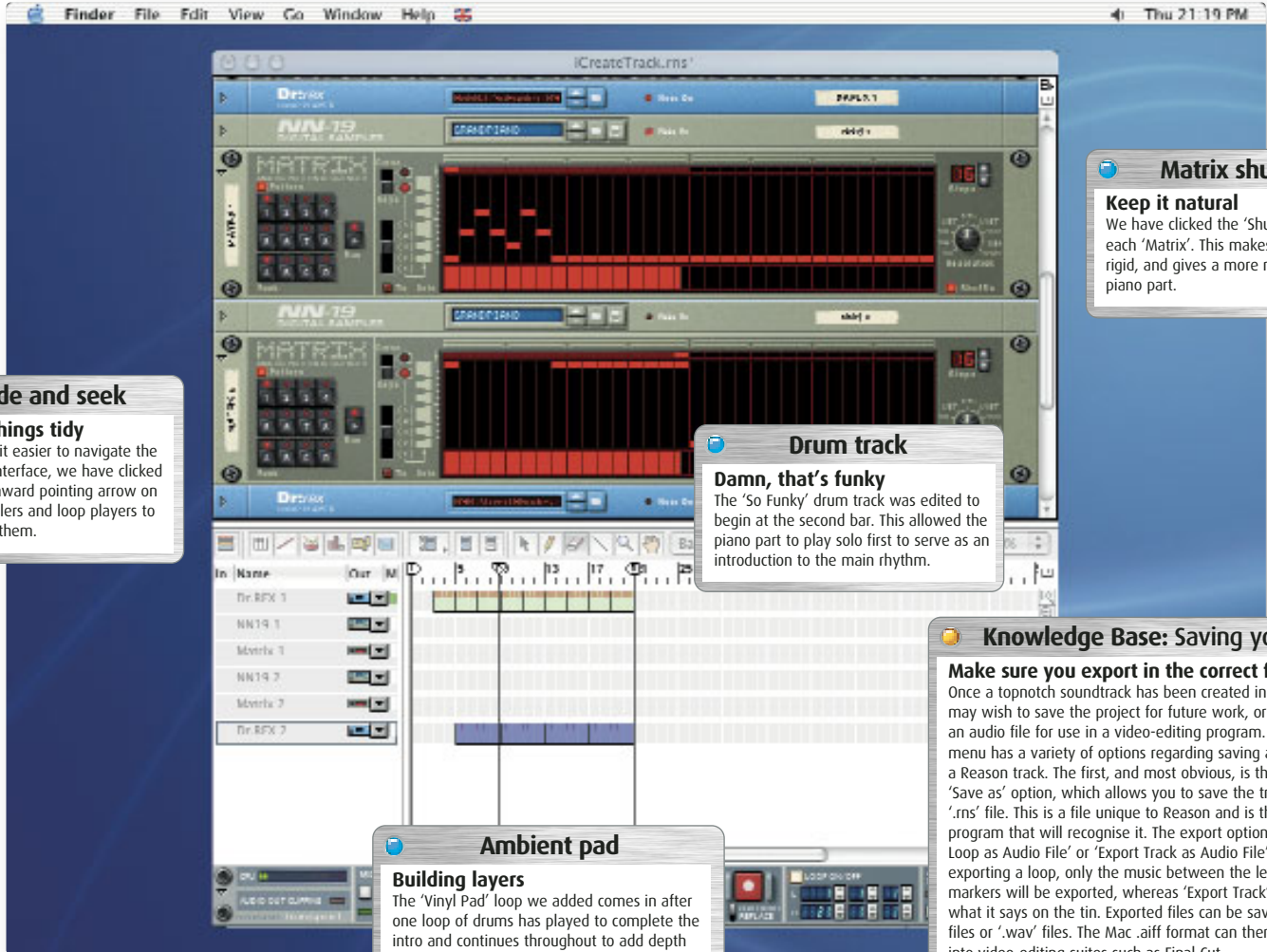
Click 'Stop' on the 'Transport' bar twice to return the marker to the start of the track. Hit 'Play', and the piano melodies and drum loop should play together.



### 9: Return of the Dr

Open a new Dr.REX loop player from 'Create' and open the 'Loop Browser'. Open the 'Music Loops', 'Variable Tempo' folder and then pick 'Downtempo Loops'.

## The finished soundtrack in Reason



**Hide and seek**  
Keep things tidy  
To make it easier to navigate the Reason interface, we have clicked the downward pointing arrow on the samplers and loop players to compact them.

**Matrix shuffle**  
Keep it natural  
We have clicked the 'Shuffle' button on each 'Matrix'. This makes them less rigid, and gives a more natural-sounding piano part.

**Drum track**  
Damn, that's funky  
The 'So Funky' drum track was edited to begin at the second bar. This allowed the piano part to play solo first to serve as an introduction to the main rhythm.

**Ambient pad**  
Building layers  
The 'Vinyl Pad' loop we added comes in after one loop of drums has played to complete the intro and continues throughout to add depth to the music.

**Knowledge Base: Saving your files**  
Make sure you export in the correct format  
Once a topnotch soundtrack has been created in Reason, you may wish to save the project for future work, or export it as an audio file for use in a video-editing program. The 'File' menu has a variety of options regarding saving and exporting a Reason track. The first, and most obvious, is the 'Save' or 'Save as' option, which allows you to save the track as an '.rns' file. This is a file unique to Reason and is the only program that will recognise it. The export options are 'Export Loop as Audio File' or 'Export Track as Audio File'. When exporting a loop, only the music between the left and right markers will be exported, whereas 'Export Track' does exactly what it says on the tin. Exported files can be saved as '.aiff' files or '.wav' files. The Mac .aiff format can then be imported into video-editing suites such as Final Cut.



### 10: Music loop

Open the 'Vinyl Pad' loop and click 'To Track'. When played, you will notice that the loop is out of tune and therefore needs to be adjusted.



### 11: Transposing the loop

On the small keyboard display on the Dr.REX, click the key below the one currently highlighted to 'Transpose' the loop down one note. Listen to the difference.



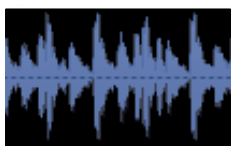
### 12: A little pruning

On the 'Timeline', click on the first green 'REX' loop and hit 'Delete'. Do the same for the first blue 'REX' loop to create an intro to the track.



# Tutorial: Record audio to your Mac with Peak

Bring your dusty old vinyl kicking and screaming into the digital age with this guide to hard disk recording with top audio application Peak LE



## Aim of this section

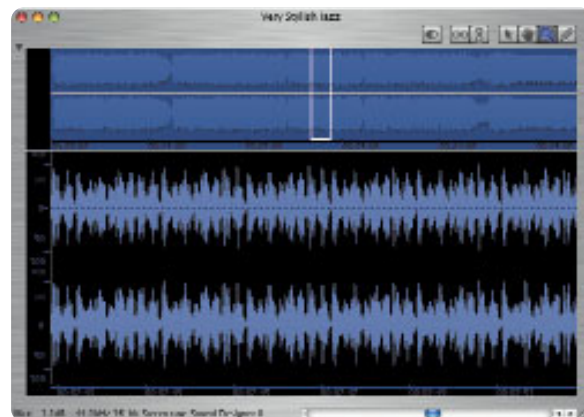
**Task:** Get to grips with hard disk recording

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Time needed:** 90 minutes



Macs have become standard in many professional recording studios thanks to the quality of their built-in soundcards and the presence of line-in ports on PowerMacs and PowerBooks. In this tutorial, however, we'll be showing you how to dispense with the need for dedicated recording hardware and turn your Mac into a self-contained recording studio. The software we'll be using for this task is Bias Inc's excellent Peak LE. In our example we'll be using Peak LE to digitise a stack of old vinyl, but you can use exactly the same principles to use your Mac to record your band direct from a mixing desk, an instrument direct from an amplifier or even your own voice from an external microphone. Join us as we demystify the process of hard disk recording.

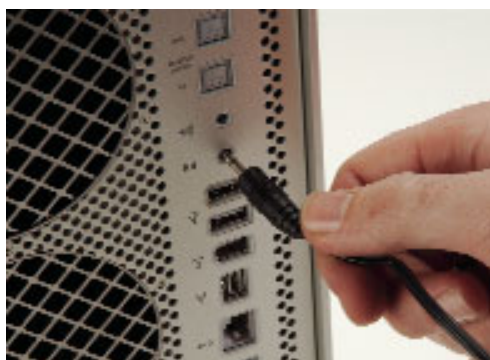


## Step-by-step Peak LE 4.0 Setting up your Mac for hard disk recording



### 1: Platters that matter

We're going to use Peak LE 4.0, available from [www.bias-inc.com](http://www.bias-inc.com) to convert a stack of neglected vinyl into AAC format so that it can be enjoyed in iTunes.



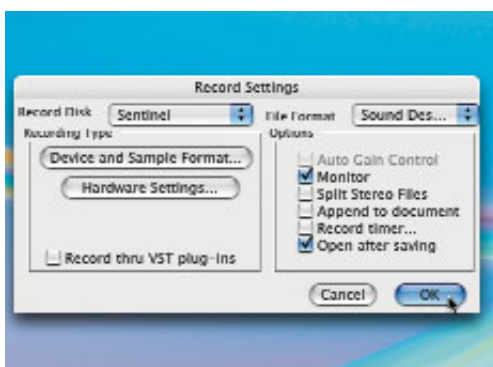
### 2: Connecting the cables

Got a PowerMac or PowerBook? All you need is a digital audio cable with one line in pin, which you should be able to pick up from any decent hi-fi store.



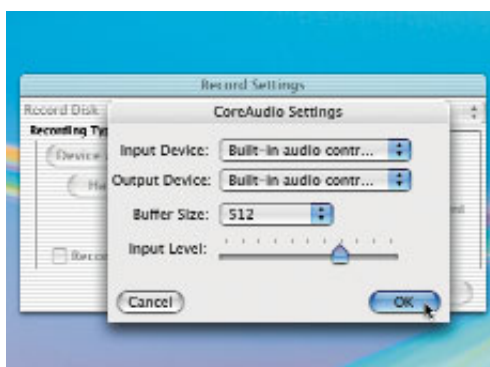
### 3: Third part solutions

If you don't have a line in port on your Mac you'll need to purchase a USB audio converter like the Griffin Power Wave pictured above ([www.griffintechologies.com](http://www.griffintechologies.com)).



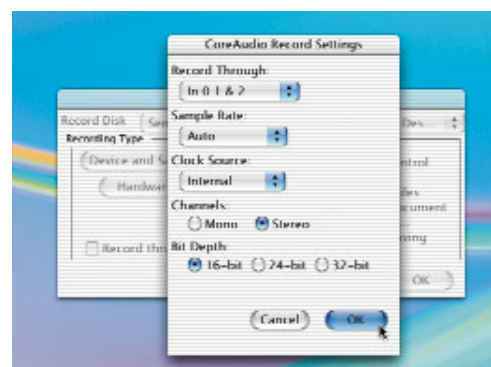
### 4: Recording settings

With everything connected, it's time to run Peak and configure it. Click on the 'Audio' menu and scroll down to 'Record Settings'. Select the options shown above.



### 5: Hardware settings

Now click on 'Hardware Settings...'. Make sure 'Built-in audio controller' is selected if you are using a PowerMac or PowerBook. Set an appropriate Input Level. Hit 'OK'.



### 6: Device and Format settings

Leave everything else set at the default level, but make sure you select 'Stereo' and '16-bit'. For better sound quality, but bigger file sizes, select '24-bit'. Hit 'OK'.

## Take a whistle stop tour around the Peak LE interface

**The right tools**

**The main toolbar**  
All of Peak's main tools are accessible from the main toolbar. Many of these will only be needed by audio professionals and you only really need to concern yourself with the first four sets of tools.

**The whole shebang**

**Previewing the Waveform**  
While the larger part of the Waveform window shows only a section of the Waveform, this section shows the whole thing. You can use the cursor tool to highlight an area to view up close in the window at the bottom.

**The Transport window**

**Controlling your recording**  
This acts as a counter and levels meter. The counter on the left shows you how far through a recording you are, the controls to the left of the counter allow you to access different areas of a waveform and the levels meter allows you to monitor the current recording level. We recommend that you never let your recording go any higher than -3db

**Dread at the controls**

**Audio editing tools**  
These tools allow you to create loops and select different areas of the Waveform. The only tools you'll need for this workshop are the Cursor tool, for selecting audio for editing; the Hand tool, for moving around the Waveform; and the Magnification tool for zooming in close for greater control.

**This is a journey into sound...**

**The Waveform window**  
This is a Waveform, or more simply put a graphical representation of your recording. The blank parts of the Waveform indicate silence, while the peaks indicate loud parts of the recording and the troughs more quiet sections. For stereo recordings, like this one, the Waveform has two channels. Make sure that you select both of these when making edits.

**Looking after your hard disk**  
Good hard disk maintenance is vital for getting the best results when recording audio and it pays to regularly defrag your Mac's hard disk with a good disk tool like Symantec's System Works. This is because as you read and write data to your Mac's hard drive it begins to fragment. A seriously fragmented drive may not be able to write files to a single block of disk space. This is not a problem with most files, but with audio it can lead to recording and playback problems. Bias-Inc, the developer of Peak, recommends that you keep your hard disk below 10% fragmentation for best results.

## Peak's record settings explained

Configuring Peak's record settings are a vital part of setting the program up for audio recording. Here we take a closer look at what's what...

**Record Disk**  
This menu allows you to select which hard disk you will be recording to. Ideally, for professional sound recording, you should use a dedicated volume or external hard drive. Here, though, we're selecting our main hard drive because we've got plenty of space available and it has just been defragged.

**Record thru VST plug-ins**  
If you have VST plug-ins installed on your Mac checking this option will enable you to record through them.

**File Format**  
You only have a choice of two file formats to record to with: AIFF and Sound Designer II. Selecting AIFF will give you CD quality audio, while Sound Designer II is a professional sound recording format. Here we're using the latter, but it doesn't matter which you pick for this tutorial.

**Options**  
This is an important section of the Record Settings panel. Checking 'Auto Gain Control' enables you to disable the Automatic Gain Control feature used by Mac OS X with some microphones, checking 'Monitor' allows you to monitor your recording through your Mac's speakers or headphones, 'Split Stereo' allows you to record a stereo file as two mono files, 'Append' allows you to record into an existing document, 'Record timer' allows you to set a time limit for your recording, and 'Open after recording' opens the file's Waveform for you for editing.

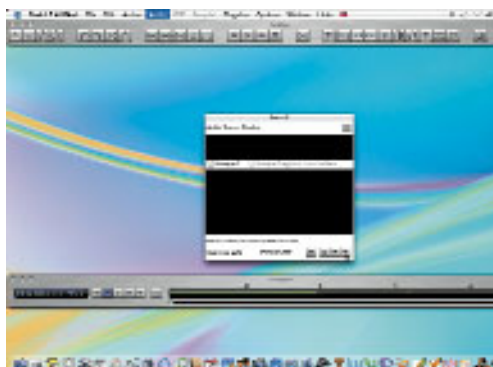


## Step-by-step Peak LE 4.0 Recording audio with Peak



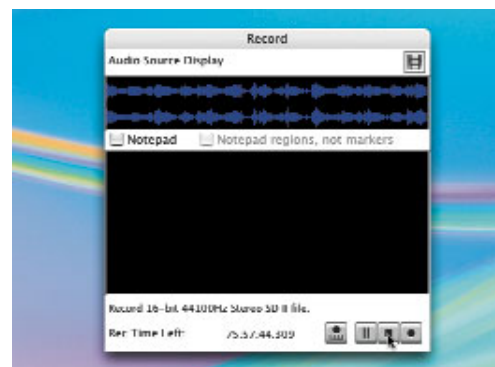
### 1: Ready to record

With everything connected and Peak configured, we're ready to record. Click on the 'Audio' menu and scroll down to 'Record'.



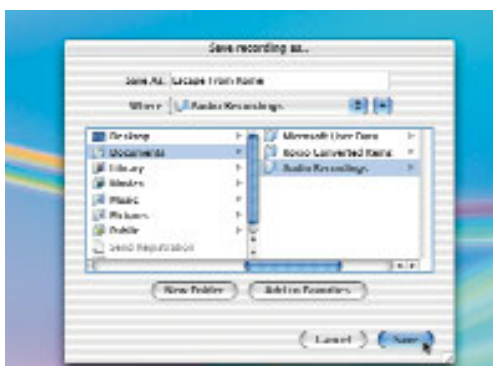
### 2: Preview your audio

Peak won't record until you are happy with the levels. Use headphones to cue up the music and preview your audio in the Transport bar. Hit 'Record' when happy.



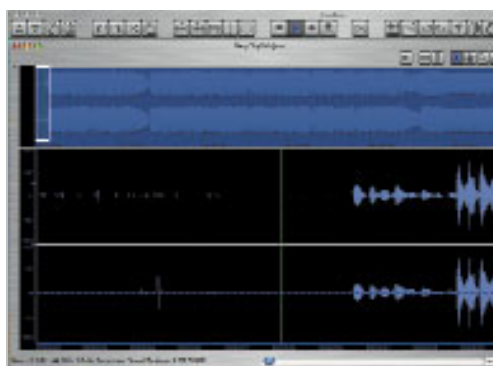
### 3: Monitoring your recording

The Record window displays the recording's waveform at the top and information about the format and time at the bottom. Hit the 'Stop' button when you're done.



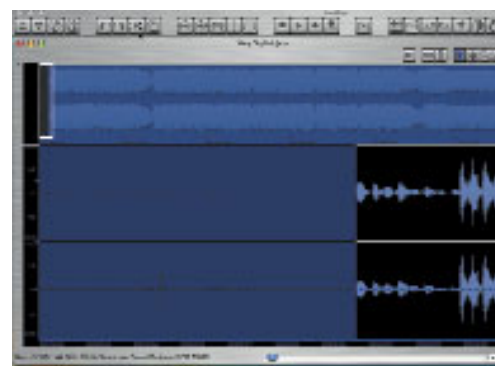
### 4: Save your recording

Remarkably, it's that simple to make a recording. Save the recording and its Waveform will appear. Use the 'Play' button on the Transport to check all is well.



### 5: Uncomfortable silences

Now it's time to edit our audio. We'll need to trim the silence from the beginning and end of our recording. Select the 'Cursor' tool from the 'Waveform' window.



### 6: Everything that has a beginning...

Click on the timeline where you want the edit to start. Making sure you select both audio channels, highlight the area you want to delete. Click on the 'Cut' button.



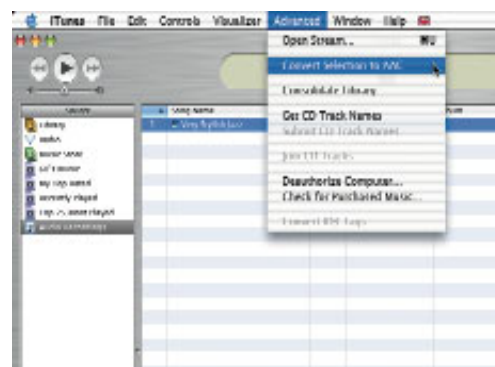
### 7: ...has an ending

Do exactly the same for the end of your recording, leaving a couple of seconds of silence. Use the 'Fast Forward' button on the 'Transport' to find the end.



### 8: Save it down

Save the edited file down with a different name, so you'll have a copy of the original recording if you need it. Drag and drop the new file into your iTunes Library.



### 9: Jump to iTunes

In its current format the file size is massive. Use the 'Convert Selection to AAC' option from the 'Advanced' menu to make it more iTunes friendly and you're done.

# Tutorial: Restore your old photos in Elements

Don't let your old photos succumb to the signs of ageing. Scan them into your Mac and use Photoshop Elements to restore them to their former glory instead



## Aims of this section

**Task:** Restore an old photo and create a CD inlay card

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

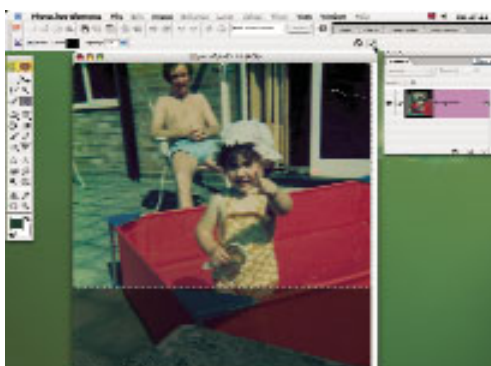
**Time needed:** 1 hour



The next time you set off for a trip down memory lane and get your old photos out, you may be horrified to find marks, scratches and other signs of wear and tear. You may also be shocked at the quality of the photos – far from gazing upon the kind of crisp, clean images we're used to nowadays, you could be faced with muddy, blurry, torn and wonky photographs. But you don't have to resign yourself to albums of smudgy memories. With Photoshop Elements on your side, you can quickly correct the signs of age and make your shots look like spring chickens again. Read on, as we show you what tools and methods will sort out the most common problems, and be sure to check out the files on this issue's CD.

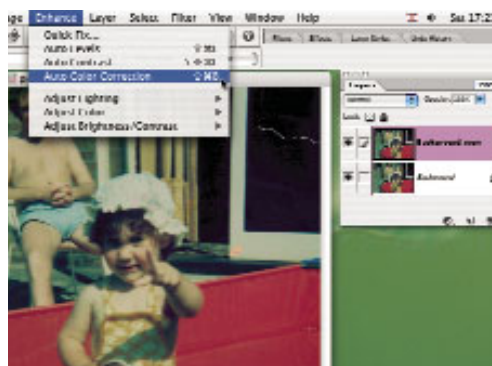


## Step-by-step Photoshop Elements 2 Restore your old photos



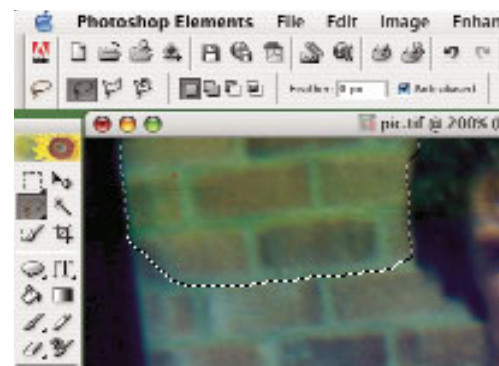
### 1: Crop away

Composition was a bit hit and miss in ye olde days, so you may have to crop your image. Select the 'Crop' tool, draw around the area to keep and click the tick.



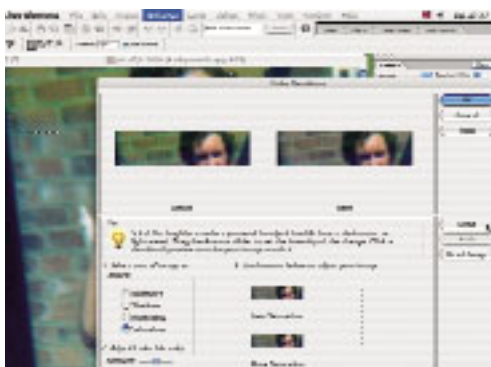
### 2: Adjust the colour

Duplicate the picture on a new layer. Before you get to the nitty-gritty, you may need to alter the colour. A quick way is to go to 'Enhance', 'Auto Color Correction'.



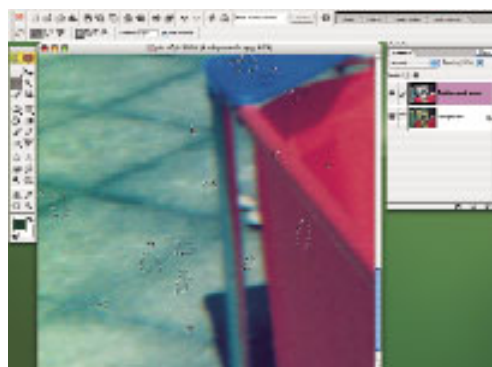
### 3: Make selections

Old photos often have discoloured areas. Zoom in and use the 'Lasso' tool to select it. If there's more than one, hold down 'Shift' to make multiple selections.



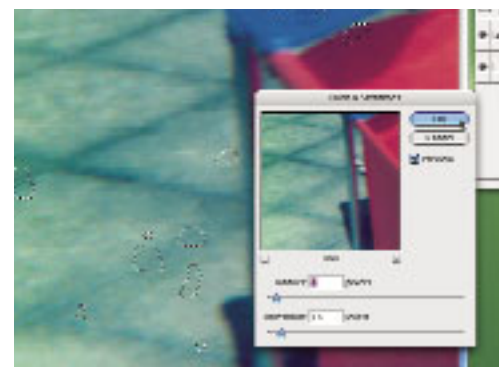
### 4: Adjust the colour of the selection

Go to 'Enhance', 'Adjust Color', 'Color Variations' and play about with the option here. Keep an eye on the preview, and don't forget the 'Undo' button!



### 5: Wipe away the dust

Old photos can suffer from dust, speckles and other blemishes. To quickly get rid of them all, hold down 'Shift' and use the 'Lasso' tool to draw round them.

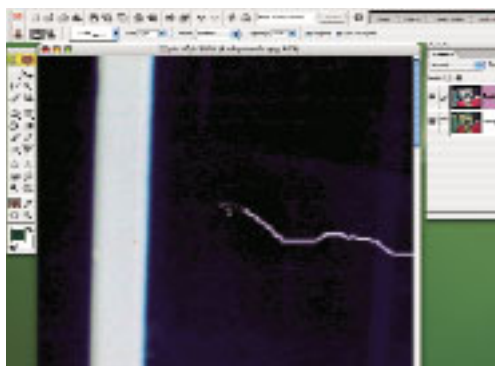


### 6: Reduce the noise

Now got to 'Filter', 'Noise', 'Dust and scratches'. Play around with the settings, but aim for as small a pixel radius as possible and the largest threshold number.



## The old and the new



### 7: Clone wars

To get rid of minor tears and marks, use the 'Clone' tool. With the tool selected, zoom into an area next to the tear and press 'Alt'. Now brush over the tear.



### 8: The 'Sponge' tool

When set to 'Desaturate', this tool wipes away colour – great for stains. Select the area and set the 'Flow' to '50%'. If this is too harsh, choose a lower number.



### 9: Save the image

Have another look around the image and see if there's anything you've missed. Once you're happy, choose whether to save with the layers, or 'Flatten' it.

### That's torn it

#### Old and worn

Small tears such as this are easy to repair in Elements. The 'Clone' tool is a quick and easy way of replicating the colours and detail of one area of an image into another. The key to using the 'Clone' tool is to not go overboard, and to ensure that you select appropriate areas.

### Smooth it out

#### Do some dusting

The 'Dust & Scratches...' filter is excellent for removing all of the speckly blemishes that often plague old photographs.

### Stain begone

#### Sponge it off

Rusty coloured areas such as this can be treated with the 'Sponge' tool. This will remove the colour of the stain, hopefully leaving the image intact underneath. If it does take too much colour away, simply add it back with the 'Clone' tool.

### Knowledge Base: Along the straight and narrow

#### Use natural blends

If you need to use the 'Color Variations' option, as we did, have a think about the area you select. In our example, we could run along the cement between the bricks. This acts as a blend between the treated area and the existing one.

### Clean as a whistle

#### The better half

This part of the image is the corrected part. The colours have lost the old greeny/yellow hue, and everything is sharper because of this. All of the tiny specks and marks have also been removed.

### Layer it up

#### Good old layers

We've only used one duplicated layer here, but feel free to use as many as you like. If you're working on a particularly complicated image, it's an idea to duplicate the image layer each time you try something new, just so you don't lose all of your hard work if there's a power cut or your Mac has a drop.



# Tutorial: Design your own inlay cards

Don't just blindly churn out faceless CDs or DVDs. With Photoshop Elements and some digital images, you can create striking designs for inlay cards or onbody artwork



**Task:** Create artwork for CD/DVD inlay cards

**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Time needed:** 30 minutes



Most people have a CD or DVD burner, and routinely transfer files onto discs. But the next time you go to burn a disc, why not go that extra yard? Instead of just scrawling the contents of the CD on the case in marker pen, you could create a special inlay card. Perhaps you're putting together a digital portfolio of work. If you take the time to produce special inlay and onbody artwork with contact details, you're going to look more professional than someone who posts of a boring CV on a piece of grubby paper.

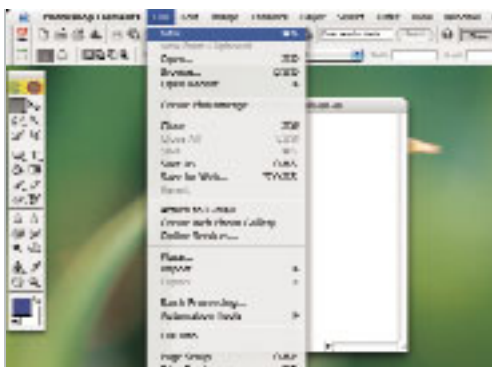
Of course, you don't need to use potential employment as an excuse for creating special inlay cards. Maybe you're in the process of putting together a slideshow or movie from a recent event. By producing corresponding inlays and onbody art, you can make something really special. Even if your motives aren't this altruistic, inlay cards can benefit you. For example, maybe you dabble in the occasional spot of art. Chances are you've amassed quite a collection

of photographs in the off chance that they will be useful, either as a main image or as a reference for a painting, model or piece of digital art. Rather than have them scattered about on your hard drive, organise them into categories and burn each one to CD. By creating relevant inlay artwork – possibly with small thumbnails of each image stored on the CD, which is what we've done here – you can quickly see what each one contains without having to scour through a pile of discs or folders. And if you follow our guide to burning multi-session discs on page 72, you can add to the CD as and when.

Whatever the reason for making an inlay card, Photoshop Elements has more than enough features to help you on your way. We've tried to cover every technique you may need to create your own work of art, and you can find templates on this issue's CD. Once you see how good your inlay cards can look, we guarantee you'll never be satisfied with just using a marker pen again!

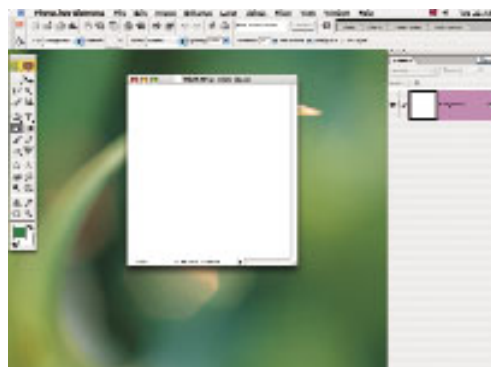


## Step-by-step Photoshop Elements 2 Create artwork for an inlay card



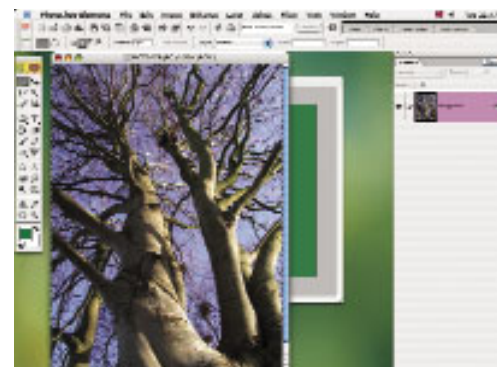
### 1: Set the canvas

Your first step is to set the canvas size. Either use the 'front template' file from the cover CD, or set your own measurements by going to 'File', 'New'.



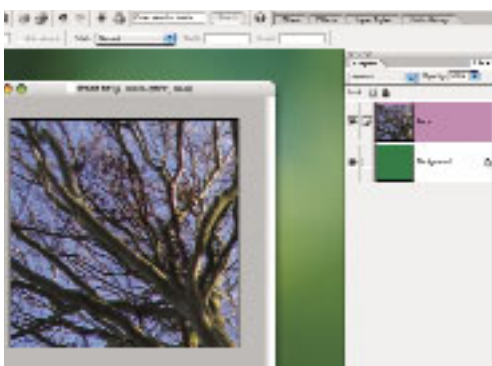
### 2: Colour the background

Apply a colour to the background, open the 'Color Picker' and choose a suitable shade. Select the 'Paint Bucket' tool and click on the background layer to fill.



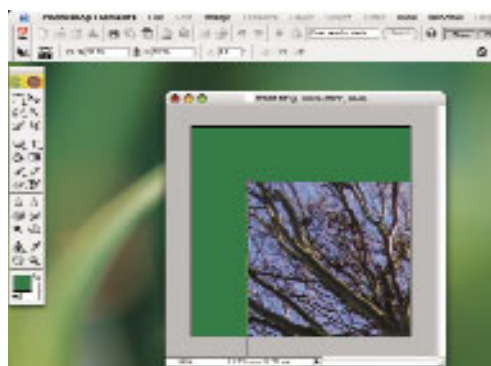
### 3: Add an image

Open your chosen image in Photoshop, select the part you want with the 'Rectangular Marquee' tool and then press 'Apple', 'C'.



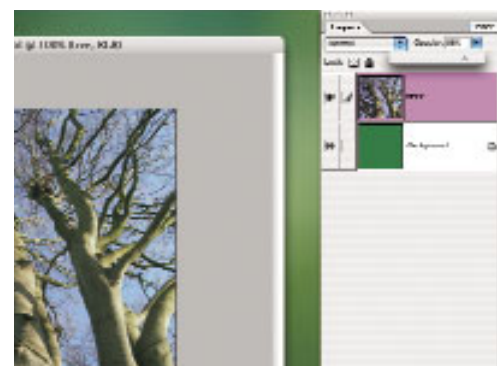
### 4: Another layer

Return to your inlay and create a new layer. Name it something suitable and paste the image by pressing 'Apple', 'V'.



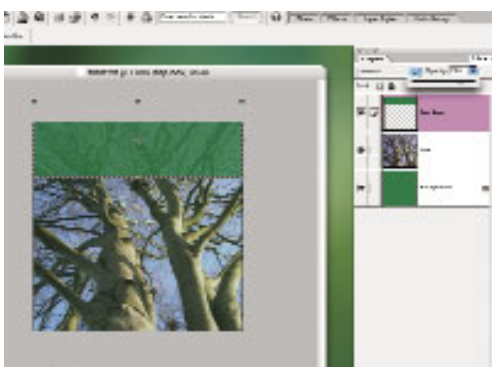
### 5: Make it fit

If the image is too large, you can scale it to fit. Go to the 'Image' menu, 'Transform', 'Free Transform'. Drag the corner squares in to reduce the size of the image.



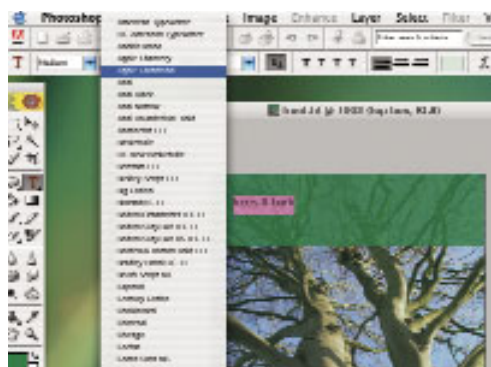
### 6: See through it

A quick way of adding interest is to alter image opacity. Go to the 'Layers' palette and drag the 'Opacity' slider to the left. The background will start to show through.



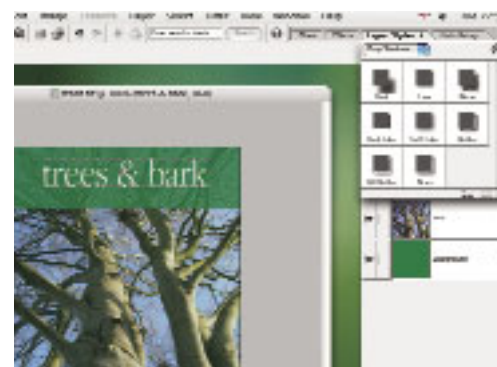
### 7: Say what you see

To add a text box, create a new layer and draw a box with the 'Rectangular Marquee' tool. Fill with a colour and alter the opacity as before.



### 8: Add text

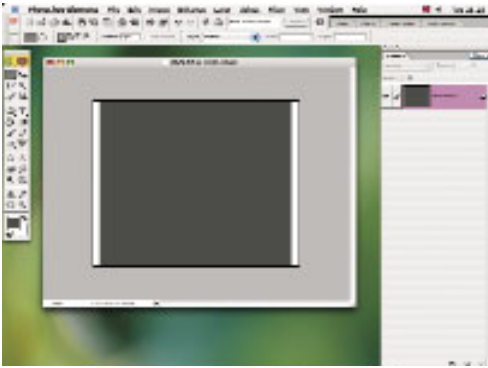
Select an area, pick the 'Text' tool, and click in the selected area. Choose a font, colour and size from the top toolbar. Position using the 'Move' tool.



### 9: Style it up

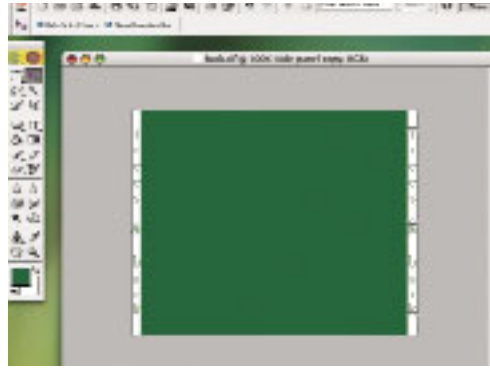
Go to the 'Layer Style' tab and pick one for the text and box. We've gone for 'Drop Shadow'. You may find you need to reapply the opacity of the box.

## Step-by-step Photoshop Elements 2 Create artwork for an inlay card



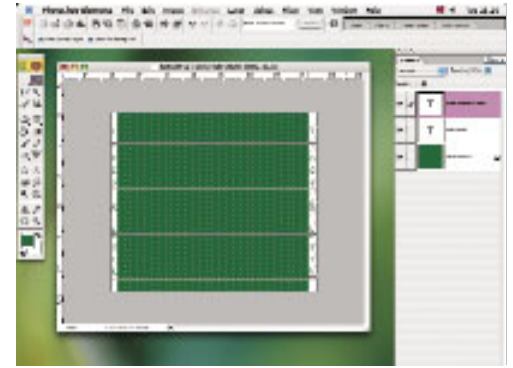
### 10: Round the back

Open the 'Backtemplate' file from the CD. If your CD case has no side panels, ignore these bits. Pick a suitable colour for the background as before.



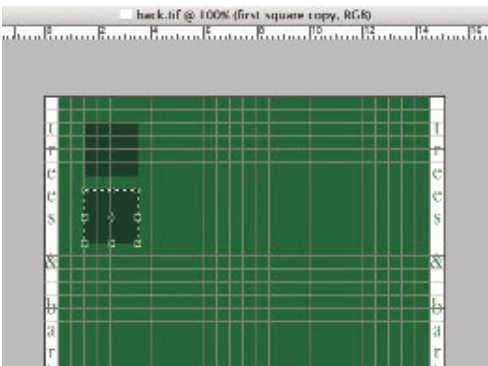
### 11: A sideways glance

Create a new layer and use the 'Marquee' tool to draw in one of the panels. Pick the 'Vertical Type' tool and style your text as before.



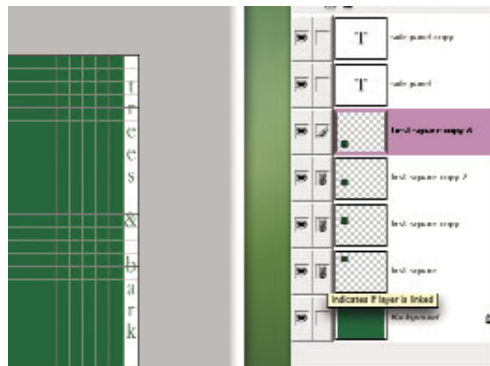
### 12: Rule the day

Turn the rulers and grid on from the 'View' menu. We're going to create a series of boxes, so rulers and the grid are essential in making sure they line up.



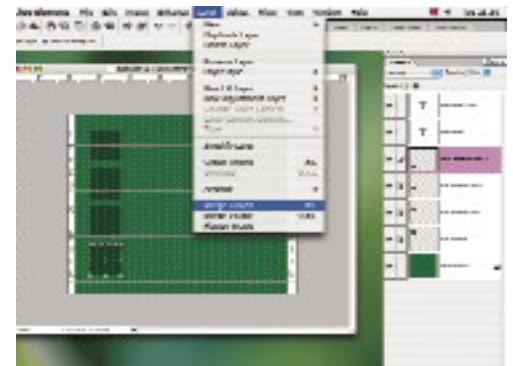
### 13: Seeing squares

Select the 'Rectangular Marquee' tool and draw a square box on a new layer. Fill it with a colour. Using the grids, copy this layer and move it down.



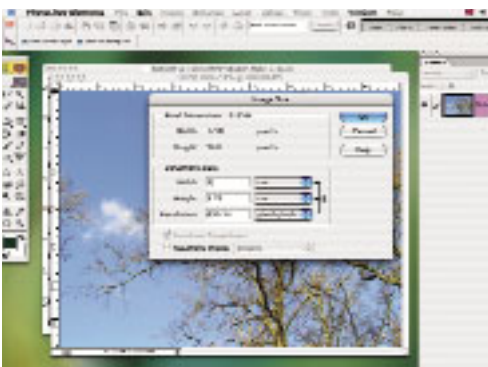
### 14: Link them up

Once you have a line of squares, go to the 'Layers' palette and click the box next to the 'eye' icon on the square layers. The chain icon means they are linked.



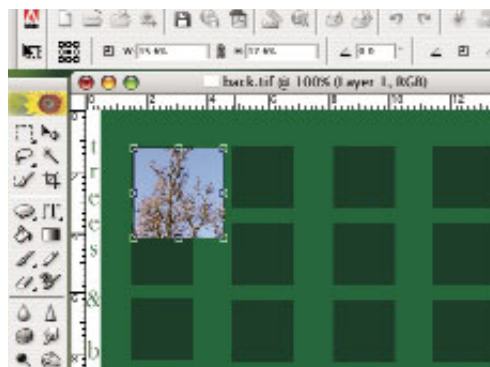
### 15: Moving en masse

Go to the 'Layers' menu and pick 'Merge linked'. Copy the linked layer layer and move to make a new line of squares. Repeat until you have enough.



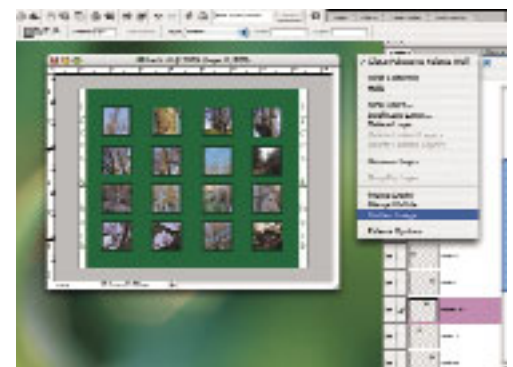
### 16: Fill the square

Now it's time to fill the squares with images. Open an image, go to 'Image', 'Resize', 'Image Size'. Make sure all the boxes are linked and enter a new size.



### 17: Back to the inlay

Copy and paste the image into the inlay document as before. Use the 'Transform' tool as in step five to resize it to one of the boxes. Repeat for the rest.



### 18: Save your work

When you're happy with everything, save the file. If you don't want the layers, go to 'More' in the 'Layers' palette and pick 'Flatten image'. Now save as normal.



## The finished inlay

**See the big picture**

**Nothing too harsh**  
Adding transparency to text boxes can give a nice effect. If a solid colour looks too harsh, reduce the opacity slightly to let the image come through.

**Clear titles**

**Say what you see**  
Whatever type of inlay you're creating, it's crucial that the title is clear. Make your font nice and large and make sure the font colour doesn't get lost in the background.

**Treat the picture**

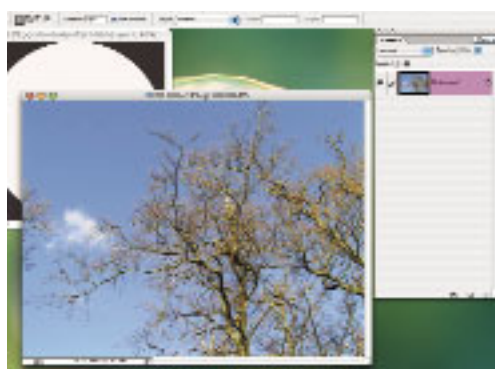
**The easy way to get an effect**  
Instead of playing around with 'Layer Styles' or filters, you can easily add a quick effect to an image just by placing it on a layer over a solid colour and then adjusting the opacity.

**See from the side**

**Know where you are**  
If your CD is of the thin, jewel case variety, you won't have to bother with these side panels. But if you do need them, a quick blast of the 'Vertical Type' tool will make sure you can read the CD title.

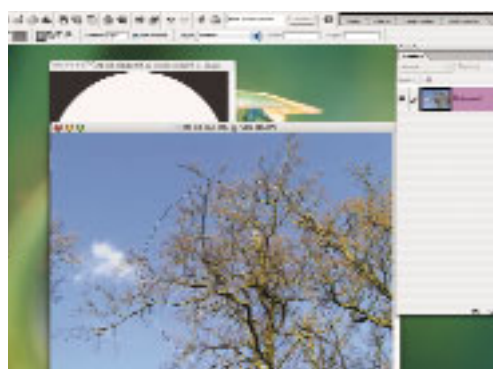
**Pictorial contents**

**Quick reference guide**  
If you decide to create a CD of images, it's an idea to have small thumbnails of whatever images are on the disc, so you don't have to load the disc and wade through the images. If you save the layers, you can add more thumbnails if you add any more images.



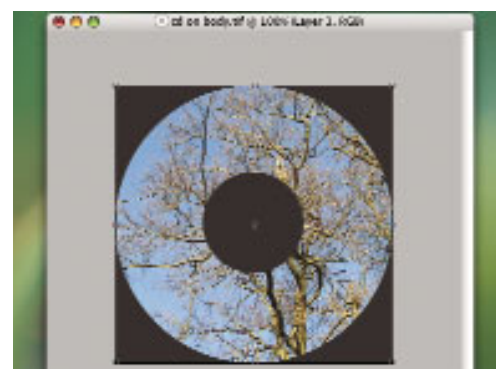
### 19: Don't forget the disc

You can also design artwork to go on the actual CD or DVD. Open the 'On body' template from this issue's CD and then open an image.



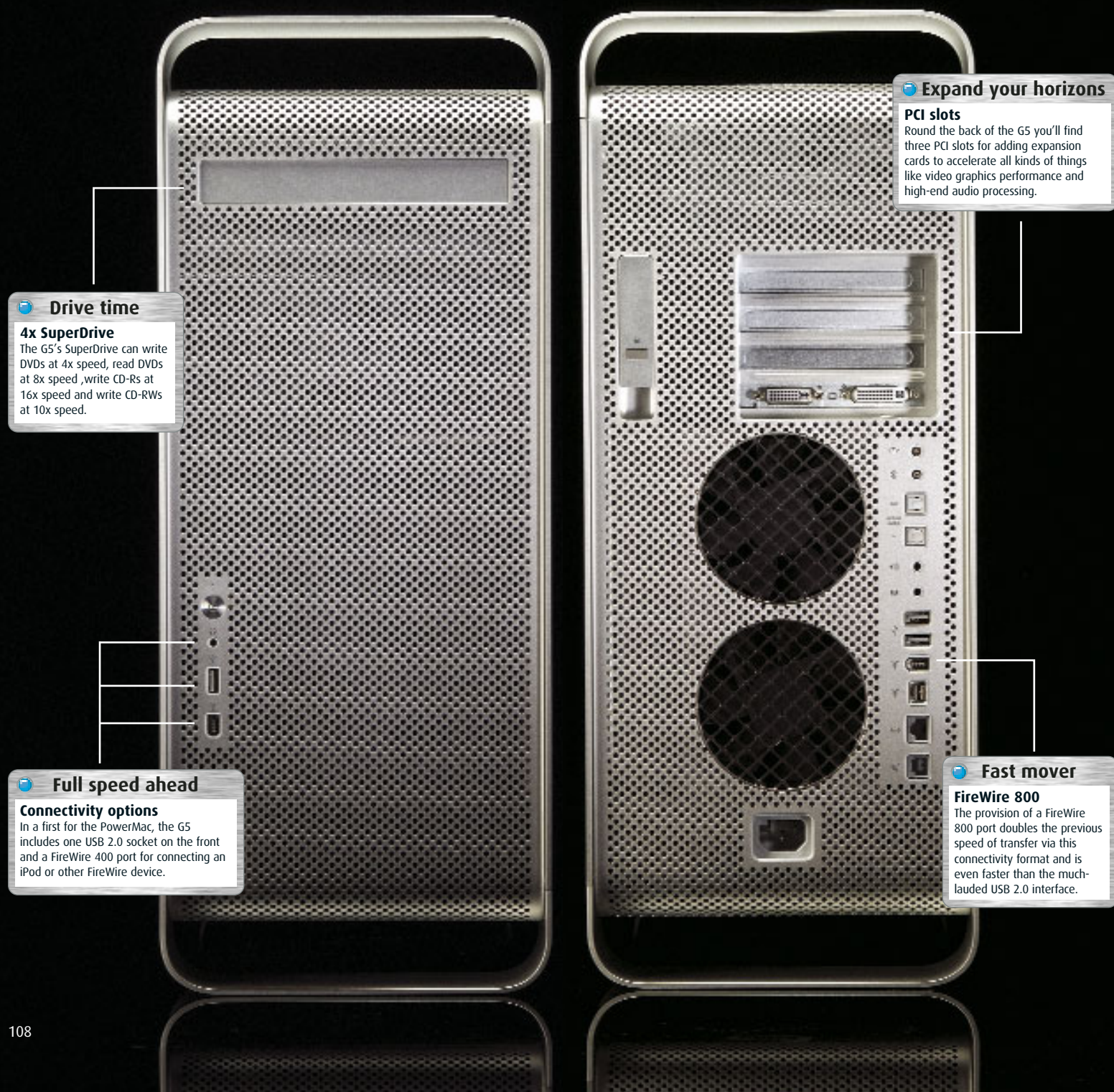
### 20: Make a rough selection

Use the 'Elliptical Marquee' tool to make a circle selection on the picture. Now press 'Apple', 'C'. Paste onto the CD template.



### 21: Make it fit

Use the 'Transform' tool as before to make the picture fit. Line up the corner squares with the outer edges and you won't go wrong.



## Drive time

### 4x SuperDrive

The G5's SuperDrive can write DVDs at 4x speed, read DVDs at 8x speed, write CD-Rs at 16x speed and write CD-RWs at 10x speed.

## Full speed ahead

### Connectivity options

In a first for the PowerMac, the G5 includes one USB 2.0 socket on the front and a FireWire 400 port for connecting an iPod or other FireWire device.

## Expand your horizons

### PCI slots

Round the back of the G5 you'll find three PCI slots for adding expansion cards to accelerate all kinds of things like video graphics performance and high-end audio processing.

## Fast mover

### FireWire 800

The provision of a FireWire 800 port doubles the previous speed of transfer via this connectivity format and is even faster than the much-lauded USB 2.0 interface.



# Dual 2.0Ghz PowerMac G5

Apple's PowerMac G5 has wowed some and infuriated others. *iCreate* got its hands on the top of the range model in an attempt to separate fact from fiction

**B**efore we get started, let's get one thing straight. The G5 is not the world's fastest personal computer. It may *become* the world's fastest personal computer when Apple brings out the hotly anticipated dual 3.0Ghz version later this year, but at present it isn't the fastest. Claims of a landspeed record are essentially based around the need to market the G5 in this way. Such hyperbole was never going to fool an army of sceptical computer geeks or the UK's Independent Television Commission, which ruled that Apple's boasts were unsubstantiated and insisted that the PowerMac G5 advertising campaign was pulled from UK broadcasts.

Let's not dwell on the negative, however. The most important thing is that the G5 is supersonic in comparison to the PowerMacs it replaced. Locked into the PowerPC roadmap generated by its partnership with Motorola, Apple has struggled for some years now to produce machines fast enough to keep creative professionals happy. Now, thanks to an entente cordiale with IBM, it looks like Apple is right back in the race. We've already had a look at the G5, back in issue three, but now we've got our hands on the top of the range model so that we can bring you this detailed test of the machine currently occupying the top spot of the Macintosh food chain.

## Beauty and the beast

If judging the merits of individual computers came down to a straight beauty contest Apple would normally always win hands down. The appearance of the G5, however, will divide many users. With its cold, harsh metallic feel and 'cheese grater' holes it's almost an anti-Mac design. We think it looks great, but it might not float your boat. Another thing that will strike you immediately about the G5 is its size. It's an absolute beast, playing Goliath to the G4's David. But unlike David, the PowerMac G5 takes all the spoils. This, as Apple is keen to keep reminding people, is a 64-bit computer, after all. That means that the G5 is capable of making a mere 4.3billion more calculations per second than a 32-bit computer like the G4. Of course, this doesn't mean that the G5 is 4.3 billion times faster than a 32-bit computer, but it gives you an idea of the technological leap Apple has made and how this might impact on performance.

The key to the G5's power lies in the construction of its innards. Inside that clinical anodized enclosure lurks a mind-bogglingly powerful system constructed from dual 2.0 Ghz processors with 1Ghz of frontside bus each, 512K of level two cache per processor, a 133Mhz PCI-X controller and up to 8Gb of RAM (although there was only 2.0Gb of memory installed in the machine we tested - sob). Crucially, the G5's architecture provides 16Gb of bandwidth, allowing massive files and instructions to be held purely in memory, making for lightning quick computing. The technical specifications are certainly impressive, but the big issue is just how fast is this puppy? We'd

have to say that it's pretty damn fast. It's not often that you notice a massive increase in performance on a Mac, but the speed gains of the dual 2.0Ghz G5 are very noticeable indeed. Windows fly open at break-neck speed, the iTunes MP3 encoder touches speeds of up to 22x and large Photoshop files open significantly faster. Maybe it's just psychological, but this Mac feels fast. Graphics performance is highly impressive too, thanks to the inclusion of a high bandwidth AGP 8X Pro system based around ATI's Radeon 9600 Pro graphics card and 64Mb of onboard DDR video memory. A build-to-order option extends this power even further by allowing you to add ATI's 9800 Pro card complete with 128Mb of RAM for an extra £229.99.

## Connectivity and expansion

That this is the speediest Mac ever is not in question, but how does the rest of the system scrub up in comparison with previous and existing PowerMacs? For a start, the hard drive size has been doubled. The largest hard drive previously fitted as standard in a PowerMac was 80Gb, the G5 has a 160Gb drive. The SuperDrive has also been souped up, running at 4x speed - double the previous fastest SuperDrive available. In terms of connectivity the G5 boasts three USB 2.0 ports plus two USB 1.0 ports on the keyboard. There's also a lightning quick FireWire 800 port and two FireWire 400 ports. And one USB and one FireWire port are positioned on the front of the G5 for easy access. There's plenty of room for expansion, too. With three PCI card slots round the back, line in and line out ports, optical digital input and output for music production and connecting a 5:1 stereo surround system, and room for several additional hard disks, the G5 should provide enough options for even the most insane of power users.

There's no doubt that the G5 is a supercomputer worthy of the name. It's got all the power Macintosh professionals have lusted after for so long, delivers massive real world performance gains and the combination of a 64-bit computer and Panther is a truly irresistible cocktail. So what's bad about the G5? Well, we would have liked to see Bluetooth built in as standard for starters. With the launch of the Wireless Mouse and Keyboard and an already steep price tag it seems something of an oversight on Apple's part to have left Bluetooth out. Apple has once again been stingy on the RAM front, too - a machine of this spec needs more than just 512Mb fitted as standard. And Steve Jobs must be regretting promising a dual 3.0Ghz model by the summer, because if the G5's pricing structure follows the usual pattern of Apple releases then the price of a 3.0Ghz G5 may well be the same as the price of this model. Many potential G5 customers will find the carrot of a 50% increase in power worth the wait.

Apart from these minor niggles, though, it's hard to find fault with the G5 as a package. It's not the world's fastest personal computer, but it's close to it. And if you're a Mac user it's currently the best machine on the planet.

Up close and personal with the G5...

**1** As with the PowerMac G4, the G5's innards are easily accessible. Just remove the door on the side and you'll see just why some Mac users reckon that this computer's design is better on the inside than the out. To ensure that the door cannot be opened by accident, a special catch at the back of the G5 secures it shut.



**2** The dual 2.0 Ghz G5 comes with 512Mb of RAM fitted as standard, but it can be upgraded with up to 8Gb, albeit at cost of nearly £4,000. You'll find eight slots lurking behind two of the fans to the front of the enclosure.

**3** With all that power coursing through its anodised aluminium shell the G5 needs plenty of ventilation to cool it down. No fewer than nine computer-controlled fans are positioned at strategic intervals throughout the G5's enclosure to cool it down.

**4** Apple's PowerMac range has always been suited to musicians, something that has been augmented by a line in port. The line in port remains, but it has now been joined by optical digital audio ports for high-end studio work.



## Dual 2.0Ghz Power Mac G5

Sales hotline: 0800 039 1010

Web: [www.apple.com/uk](http://www.apple.com/uk)

Price: £2,289.99

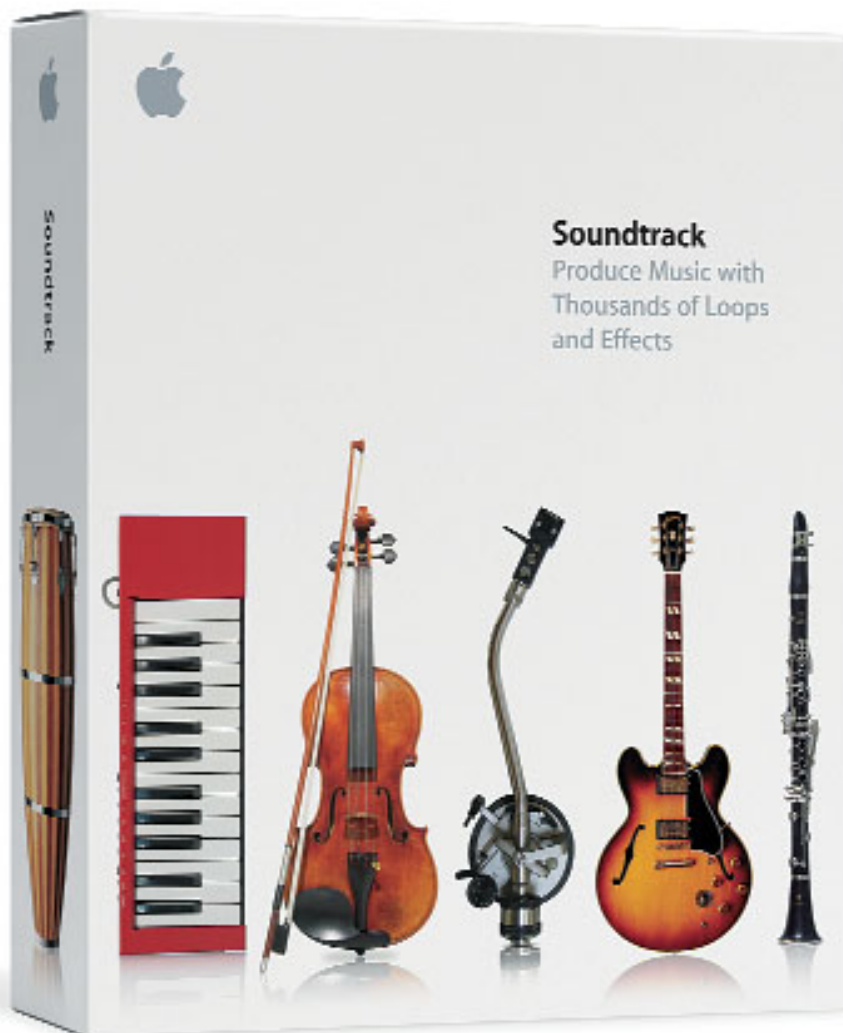
**What's good:** Why, this is the fastest Mac ever made. Panther really flies on the G5's architecture and there's a multitude of connectivity and expansion options

**What's bad:** Bluetooth doesn't come built-in as standard, there's a nagging suspicion that it's going to get faster any day now and there's only 512Mb of RAM as standard

Overall 93%

# Apple Soundtrack

Originally released as part of Final Cut Pro 4, Soundtrack is now a standalone app. We find out what this loop-based music making app can do for you



Editing your digital video footage into a masterpiece has been made a lot easier by programs such as Premiere and Final Cut Pro, although adding music or even an ambient soundtrack has never been a straightforward task for those of a visual – and not musical – mind. But, for those lucky enough to own Final Cut Pro 4, Apple's finest editing software to date, there came access to a little program called Soundtrack. As one of the main elements of the Final Cut Pro package, it made things a whole lot easier for wannabe directors to add high quality and, more importantly, in-sync sound and music to their work. So it was with this ease of use in mind that Apple decided to release Soundtrack as a standalone program.

With an exhaustive sample list on the provided DVD, making music has never been easier. It's a cliché we know, but your average child could make a decent composition in Soundtrack, so straightforward is the program to get to grips with. The intuitive interface and drag and drop functions make it a simple matter of deciding what style of music you need, browsing the library for the drums, guitars or other instruments and then slapping them onto the 'Timeline'. There are, of course, other elements that make up the program but, at a basic level, that's all there is to it. Simple alterations like key change and tempo can be executed with a simple click of the mouse or movement of a slider. The mixing can be done centrally or from the volume bar on each track in the window and, thankfully, the playback controls are as simple as pie as well.

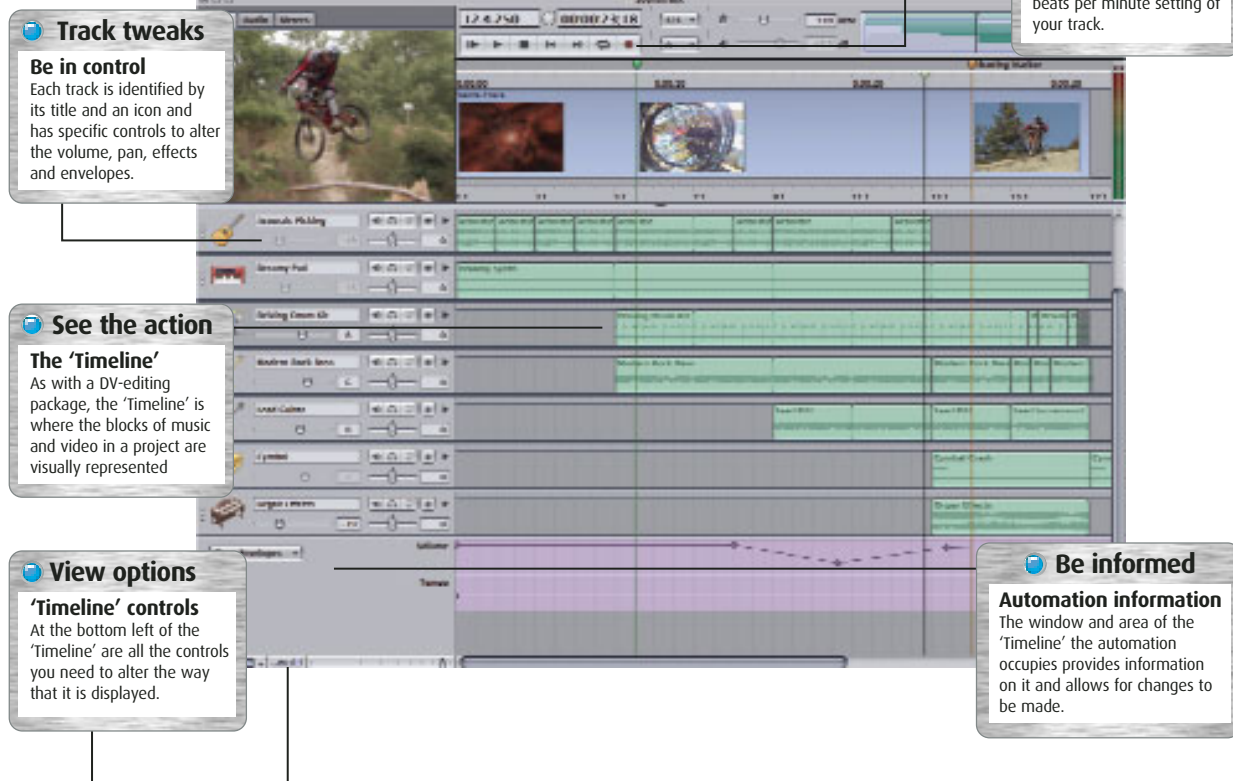
## Looking good

The Soundtrack interface is divided into several windows, all of which have different functions and displays. First of all, there's a tabbed browser window where you'll find all the files to be used in the project. There are various other tabs too, including a 'Favourites' window and search facilities. Within this browser window, files and loops can be previewed before being dragged into your project.

When you have chosen your loops and have positioned them onto your 'Timeline' they are automatically synced and set to the tempo and key of the track. Each new file dragged into the workspace will have its own track with various settings available, and will be decorated with an easy-to-spot icon to make the process far more efficient.



## Up close and personal with the Soundtrack interface



There are also a number of excellent automation features which allow you to easily plot out the volume, pan and effects levels of a track. You also have the ability to add video in the 'Timeline' for the ultimate syncing experience. This makes timing the music to elements of your footage child's play. Above the track list is another tabbed window, where you can either view any video currently added to your project, see the volume meters or find the audio loops already added to the 'Timeline'. This is especially useful if you want to add a file you've already used without having to trawl through the library again to find it.

### Master strokes

Soundtrack is an excellent program that will no doubt surprise those with no musical background (or skill) with how easily they can make movie soundtracks. You shouldn't think that the program just lends itself to video, though. Making standalone tracks is just as simple. The export options within the program are very useful and allow you to export the whole track to an audio or QuickTime video file as well as export individual tracks for use in other audio editors or sequencing software. With the loops included on the DVD you will be making music as soon as you've finished installation, but if you want a little more, Power FX has a selection that can be bought at [www.powerfx.com](http://www.powerfx.com). If you're feeling even more adventurous, you can even import your own files into Soundtrack in AIFF, WAV and

Acid formats. In addition to the obvious functions of Soundtrack you can also record sessions directly into the 'Timeline' as vocal parts, voice-overs or instruments and then apply effects to them.

### Is it for me?

Anyone who comes from the Reason school of music will probably find Soundtrack a bit simplistic for their tastes. The interface is easy to get to grips with, though, which means that knocking out a decent-sounding track can take just a few minutes, making it perfect for creatives working on time critical projects. For those members of the Mac digital video fraternity who don't own Final Cut Pro, Soundtrack is certainly a wise purchase. Using the export features in addition to the video import options makes adding music to a film or documentary a breeze. In a nutshell, buying Soundtrack is a decision to be made on what it is you want to do with it. The amount of royalty-free sounds available is an obvious selling point, as is the simplicity of controlling the program and, most importantly, the quality of your results.

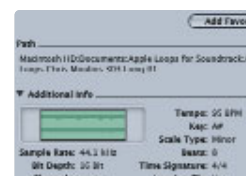
But whatever you use Soundtrack for and whatever your level of experience in music software, the program certainly brings something new to the table and allows you to make the music your own with its diversity and good selection of options. Any video editors without Final Cut Pro should definitely have this program on their wish list.

## Adding your loops to Soundtrack...

**1** Search in the 'File Browser' for a loop you want to add to your project.



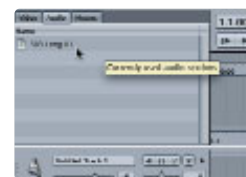
**2** When you see a file you like the look of, you can click it to view its information. You can also hear a preview if you like.



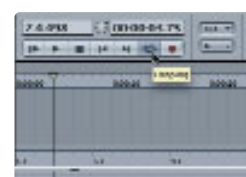
**3** As with video-editing programs, you can drag your clips onto a 'Timeline'.



**4** Clicking the 'Audio' tab will show you all the loops that you currently have stored in your project.



**5** Turn 'Looping' on in the control bar to hear your track repeating after you press the 'Play' button.



## Apple Soundtrack

URL: [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
SRP: £248.99

What's good: Perfect for the non-musician, a simple to use, effective and good-looking product

What's bad: Serious musicians may find that it's too simple

## Overall 90%



# Apple Wireless Keyboard and Mouse

Apple delivers yet another revision to its input devices by cutting the cables and embracing Bluetooth. What will this clutter-free vision do for you? We investigate

**W**ith so many cables cluttering our desks these days, it can become difficult to find enough space to swing a mouse, let alone a cat. With USB leads, iPod connectors, network cables and FireWire lines all battling for desk dominance, setting up a Zen-like working environment can be a complicated process. In branding the Mac as a digital hub, Apple understands this problem only too well, so it comes as no surprise that its new keyboard and mouse designs eschew cables in favour of the wireless freedom offered by Bluetooth connectivity.

Before we go any further, it's worth pointing out that very few Macs actually have built-in Bluetooth. If you're lucky enough to own one of the very latest PowerBooks or iBooks you'll be able to just plug these new peripherals in and go. If, like the majority of Mac users, you do not, then you'll need to buy a special USB Bluetooth adapter. Curiously, even the top of the range G5 doesn't come with built-in Bluetooth as standard. Anyway, that's enough about the foibles of Apple's hardware range. Let's turn our attentions to what the Wireless Mouse and Keyboard can actually do.

One criticism that has been levelled at the Wireless keyboard to date is that there's a tangible delay when typing. We're happy to say that this supposed glitch did not materialise at any point during our test and that even when sitting 15 feet away from our test machine (a 15-inch PowerBook) the keyboard worked just fine.

The Wireless Keyboard feels robust enough to withstand a few knocks and has a stylish finish that matches the look and feel of the iMac perfectly. The device is powered by four (included) AA batteries and Apple claims that users will get nine months of usage

from this charge – something we will be unable to substantiate for another eight months, but which compares favourably with rival PC peripherals. What we didn't like, though, was the disappearance of a height adjustment bar seen in previous Apple keyboard designs and the lack of any further ergonomic design innovations. Overall, however, this is a nice gadget to own, works well and is not unreasonably priced.

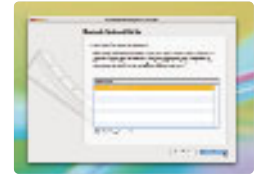
The Wireless Mouse shares the same £59 price point as the Wireless Keyboard, works just as well and feels extremely tactile to use. It also makes a perfect companion to the iBook or PowerBook. It's hardly a major revision to the previous form factor of the Apple Pro Mouse, however, and therein lies the problem.

It's quite remarkable that Apple continues to soldier on with a one-button mouse strategy when many users are asking for a two-button mouse. Fair enough, the firm wants to maintain its reputation for innovating and going against the grain, but usability has always been a key factor of interface design and with so many applications supporting two-button mice, Apple's reluctance to introduce this hardly radical feature is bordering on arrogance. Using a one-button mouse with an intensive 3D program like Maya could even slow down a professional's productivity.

Ultimately, Apple's wireless peripherals are luxuries. The majority of us can easily live without them, but the small minority will have to have them for their innovation, good looks and style. The perfect present for the Mac fanatic in your life, but not really enough to persuade most Mac fans to switch from the peripherals that came free with their desktop machines.

## The Keyboard and Mouse in focus...

**1** In order to connect both devices to a Bluetooth-enabled Mac, make your peripheral 'discoverable' by flicking the relevant switch, turn Bluetooth on from the menu bar and call up the Bluetooth Setup Assistant.



**2** The Wireless Keyboard isn't really that different to Apple's previous non-wireless keyboard, apart from the fact that it is, er, wireless and you can't adjust the height.



**3** So the optical mouse doesn't drain battery energy when it's not in use, a small hatch can be flipped up to cover the optical sensor. Apple claims the batteries will hold up for three months.



## Apple Wireless Keyboard

URL: [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
SRP: £59

**What's good:** Does everything you could ever want a keyboard to do  
**What's bad:** Few Macs have built-in Bluetooth, an expensive luxury

Overall 91%

## Apple Wireless Mouse

URL: [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
SRP: £59

**What's good:** Simple, elegant and impressive performance  
**What's bad:** Lack of a second button shows Apple isn't listening

Overall 85%





# Belkin Media Reader and Voice Recorder for iPod

A timely software update from Apple has cleared the path for two new iPod accessories from Belkin. We find out what these innovative accessories can do for you

One of the worst kept secrets of the iPod was that it had a built-in recording feature. This may have been totally unusable for most sane Mac users, but it certainly got the Mac community excited about what might be next for Apple's music player. Thanks to a recent software update, the iPod's recording capabilities have now been thrust to the fore and it can also download and store digital photos. To take advantage of this, though, you'll need to call on a third party hardware solution, and that's where Belkin's new iPod accessories come in.

First up is the Belkin Media Reader for iPod, a multi-format memory card reader that connects to the iPod's dock connector and enables an iPod to be used to store thousands of digital photos. In our tests, this cunning device worked well with every memory card format supported, handling CompactFlash, SmartMedia, Sony Memory Stick, SD card and MultiMedia cards with ease. It's a shame that FujiFilm's xD card format is not supported, however.

In all honesty we weren't massively impressed with the Belkin Media Reader. Sure it's an innovative accessory that does its job well, but it's also a power hungry little beast, requiring four AA batteries for every 3Gb of data transferred and heavily draining the iPod's battery while transferring large files. It's also large and unwieldy, particularly in comparison to its more compact voice-recording sibling. Worse still, it won't actually connect direct to your Mac, making it somewhat inflexible.

If you're a serious digital photographer, however, then you'll no doubt find this gizmo a worthwhile investment. Taking a

Belkin Media Reader on holiday is a great way to make just a digicam and a couple of memory cards go a long way, but if you're out in the field shooting hundreds of shots at a time and unable to reach a plug point to recharge your iPod, the Media Reader's lust for power may let you down.

Next up is the Belkin Voice Recorder, which luckily has none of the refuelling problems associated with its photo-reading companion. This little gadget draws its power directly from the iPod's battery and prolonged usage doesn't seem to have any major adverse effects on the charge. It's pretty easy to use too, plugging into the headphone socket on top of 3G iPods, being automatically detected by the iPod once fitted into place and then recording files through simple scroll and click options directly into .wav format.

Several people have questioned the range of the Voice Recorder's built-in microphone since its launch, but we have to say that it stood up very well in our tests. We're not sure you could definitively say that this gadget would work in the largest of lecture theatres, but we tested it at several distances in a large room and it held up impressively well, recording crystal clear audio at distances of up to 20 feet. An added advantage of owning the Voice Recorder is that it has a speaker, allowing you to not only preview your recordings, but also to play music (in a way that can only be described as low-fi) and use your iPod as an effective alarm clock.

Overall the Belkin Voice Recorder is a reasonably priced add-on that does exactly what it sets out to do. It should prove invaluable to reporters who regularly conduct face-to-face interviews and students looking to record lectures in small to medium-sized lecture theatres.

What Belkin can do for you...

**1** You can access voice recordings and images from your iPod by enabling it as a FireWire hard drive. Voice recordings are stored in a 'Recordings' folder, while pictures are stored in a rather unintuitive 'DCIM' folder.



**2** You can transfer pictures from the Media Reader using iPhoto, but you'll get the best results using OS X's Image Capture application. You can even create slideshows from this program.



**3** The Voice Recorder fits snugly into the top of the iPod (it only works with the 3G models, though). Don't be fooled into thinking that the grille is the microphone; the mic is actually a small hole on the top of the device.



## Belkin Media Reader for iPod

URL: [www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)  
SRP: £89

What's good: Innovative solution and easy to use

What's bad: Clunky and swiftly eats up battery power

Overall 73%

## Belkin Voice Recorder for iPod

URL: [www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)  
SRP: £39

What's good: Does what it says on the tin, doubles up as a speaker

What's bad: Might not stand up to lecture theatre usage

Overall 85%



# Roxio Toast 6 Titanium

Although most Mac users will quite happily burn discs from the Finder, those who hanker after more functionality should definitely try Toasting it

**B**acking up data has always been restricted by size and media. With the advent of CD and DVD burners, though, larger and larger amounts of data could be stored on a single disc. All of this extra space gave computer users the opportunity to start backing up more exciting forms of media, and these days, users regularly back up MP3s, video and images to discs.

Burning data on your Mac is a simple affair of selecting your media or files, copying them to the disc icon and then hitting 'Burn'. Thankfully, Toast 6 keeps to pretty much the same process, and doesn't succumb to the temptation of constructing an overly-complicated method of working just because it is dedicated software. Toast 6 is compatible with Mac OS X 10.2 and higher, handles all audio and video formats recognised by QuickTime and is ideal for use with iTunes, iPhoto and iMovie. But what does it offer that your Mac's native disc-burning capabilities don't?

The most obvious advantage is an intuitive interface that powers all of Toast's features. There are four tabs, a window area and a big red button for recording. The four tabs refer to 'Data', 'Audio', 'Video' and 'Copy', and each tab offers slightly different options with an extended window sporting 'Basic' and 'Advanced' tabs. Both tabs carry even more options relevant to the tab selected in the main window.

Whatever type of data you plump for, you have a choice of burning methods – either go for the drag and drop option, or click the 'Add' button and select your files. Once everything is copied onto your disc, just push that big red button and you're

off. We burnt a 100Mb to CD via an iBook with a G3 800Mhz processor and a 52x speed CD-RW in a matter of minutes.

## The extra touches

Burning methods aside, it's the extra functionality which make Toast such an attractive piece of software. Version 6 sees a range of new features, but perhaps the most interesting is ToastAnywhere. This allows you to link CD or DVD burners across a network or the Internet with other Toast 6 Titanium users.

The growing army of enthusiastic home moviemakers will love the 'Plug & Burn' feature. This makes it possible to automatically create video discs from DV camcorder content with a single click. Use the 'Toast It' function to save time and burn files or folders directly from the desktop with the pop-up menu.

In addition to the main components of the program, Roxio has provided several other useful applications. CD Spin Doctor 2 helps users digitise vinyl records or tapes or record live audio performances and provides filters to reduce noise and enhance sound. Discus RE 2.74 and the Discus RE Artwork database provide templates to create your very own covers, and Motion Pictures 1.0 is touted by Roxio as being able to turn your still pictures into 'stunning movies'. This is simple to install, simple to set up, very simple to use and provides all the burning options you want.

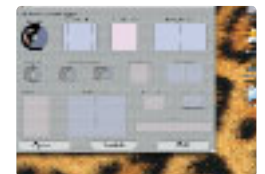
In short, Toast does what it should and is very intuitive to use. The sticking point is the price – you can pick up burning software for a lot less than the £70 Roxio is asking. These packages may have less features, but they ultimately achieve the same result.

## Roxio Toast 6 Titanium in focus...

**1** The latest version of CD Spin Doctor allows you to take your favourite records or tapes and turn them into hiss-free masterpieces. Connect to your Mac and quickly digitise your old vinyl classics. Then burn them to CD or DVD for a permanent backup.



**2** Create your own CD/DVD labels and covers with Discus RE 2.74, a simple to use application with a range of templates, backgrounds and images. Add your own 'Canvas' from the Discus RE Artwork database and create text with the very handy font selector.



**3** Motion Pictures 1.0 is a program that allows you to add motion to your photos. You can then turn this into a slideshow, complete with audio. Add your photos or images and select from a range of 'Motion Presets' including 'Zoom and Pan'. You can easily see how your choice will look by clicking the 'Motion Preview' button.



## Roxio Toast 6 Titanium

URL: [www.roxio.co.uk](http://www.roxio.co.uk)  
SRP: £69.99

**What's good:** Burning CDs and DVDs couldn't be simpler with Toast 6. The multitude of options are accessed via a simple interface

**What's bad:** A tad on the pricey side, especially if you never use any of the extra features

Overall 90%



## Norton Internet Security in focus...

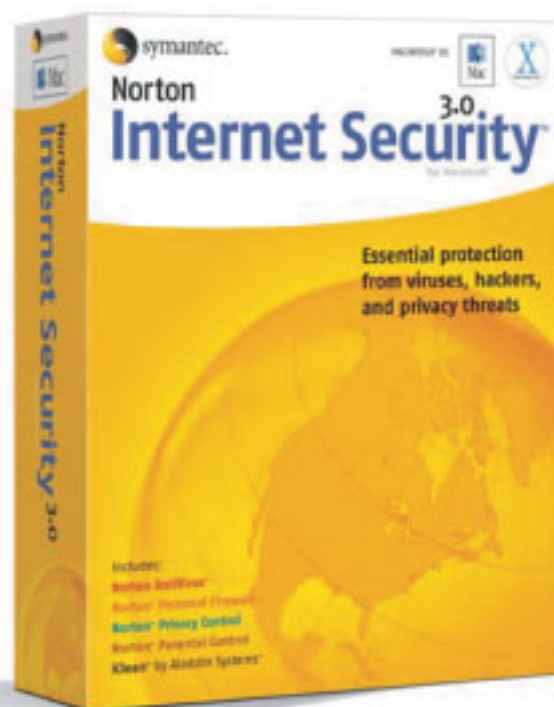
**1** The 'Norton Launcher' window gives you access to the main programs plus a fully customisable toolbar. Go to 'Window' and select 'Customize Toolbar' to open the selection of items available. To create your own toolbar, simply select the item you want and drag it onto the toolbar.



**2** 'Live Update' ensures your virus definitions are kept up-to-date and offers a variety of options. You can use the 'Customize' option to check and download new updates. The 'Update Everything Now' button will connect to Symantec and automatically download and install all updates.



**3** To ensure your children don't get to view unsuitable Web content, you can use 'Parental Control'. Block Web pages using the 'Categories' option or enter each individual site you encounter. The alternative option is to add all the sites you want to be viewed.



# Norton Internet Security 3.0

Symantec's venerable security suite gets another update for the Mac, but is this new version worth the wedge? We investigate...

**W**hen going online, protecting your Mac against outside influences is vital. Using the Net without any form of security and protection is just plain ludicrous. Although you may think your Mac is immune to the kind of viruses that plague PC users, when you consider that your computer may be subject to some form of attack from viruses, hackers or privacy threats approximately every 30 seconds when you're online, security software suddenly starts to look a lot more attractive.

Once a virus or hacker takes control of your machine, they can remain undetected indefinitely. And if you have no detection software, hackers and viruses can surreptitiously use your machine for illegal practices. This makes purchasing top quality protection all the more essential.

## Complete protection

Norton and Symantec are synonymous with the world of online security software – Norton Internet Security 3.0 being one of the latest offerings in a long line of outstanding applications.

Internet Security 3.0 is broken down into five different elements and includes four Norton products: AntiVirus, Personal Firewall, Privacy Control and Parental Control. In addition, Symantec has provided iClean from Aladdin Systems for the removal of cookies.

Once installed, the program uses the Norton Launcher window to access the various programs. Included is a customisable toolbar, so you can add and remove icons according to your needs. A quick double-click on the 'AntiVirus' button opens the program with a reminder to update your virus definitions.

AntiVirus is split into two views ('Disk View' and 'File View'), which gives you greater control of your options. Using the program is a simple point-and-click affair. Select your drive or file and hit the 'Scan/Repair' button. AntiVirus provides a selection of tools

with 'Scheduler' allowing you to create automatic virus scans or even a product update. The 'Live Update' option provides you with the latest virus definitions, automatically updating when you connect to the Net, and the 'Preferences' let you set up your choices. There's also an 'Auto Protect' option, which will automatically scan, detect and repair any problems. Finally, AntiVirus provides a virus definitions database, allowing you to identify by name and type.

## Keep things personal

Moving on to the other programs, Personal Firewall contains a very useful Setup Assistant that offers a three step wizard to put the firewall into action. Once up and running, you can edit and change your settings and preferences. Switch on the 'Stealth Mode' to make yourself invisible to the Internet and perform a 'Self Test' to test for any vulnerabilities or a 'Quick Check' on a particular service.

Privacy Control helps Net users eliminate or block those constant and annoying pop-up Web ads. Integrated with Privacy Control is Parental Control. This gives you control over what type of Web sites can be viewed and will find a use with every parent who is worried about what their children are accessing online.

The beauty of Internet Security 3.0 is the simplicity and ease of use on offer. Whatever your level of knowledge you will have the program set up in no time. If you do run into problems, though, the program does include a 150-page paper-based user's guide. This offers instructions from the basics, such as installing the software, right through to the intricacies of each application.

With the program set up there is little for you to do but sit back and let Norton take control. Continued use of Internet Security 3.0 has only proved what we already suspected. The program detected any incoming viruses and fought off any hack attacks with ease. All we can do is recommend Internet Security for all Mac users.

## Norton Internet Security 3.0

URL: [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)  
SRP: £79.99

**What's good:** Five top Internet security products in one great package providing essential protection against Net attacks

**What's bad:** The only minus point is that the Mac price is more expensive than the PC equivalent

# Overall 89%



*It doesn't matter how complex and exciting your trick is – if you fail to finish it, it's all for naught as you hit the water and watch your points vanish...*



*Because everyone on the water is a pro and this is a world tour, you can expect to come across photographers who capture your efforts for posterity*

# Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer

Take the wheels off Tony Hawk's skateboard, stretch it a bit, and what have you got? Who said 'a really crap skateboard'?

**W**hen commissioning this review, a certain *iCreate* Sub Editor referred to the game as 'Kelly Slater's Pro Skater'. In addition to inadvertently giving the game a far catchier title, she actually hit on one of the game's major design points – it's basically skateboarding, only on water.

What are we on about? Well, Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer originated from the Activision O2 line of titles, a brand which was – some might say – created purely to sell various not-so-well-known extreme sports games by cleverly linking them with the Tony Hawk's series. Not that these games are necessarily bad, they just don't have the rep of those featuring Mr Hawk, and so the trick is to get people to pick them up and give them a try. Thus in the O2 range, we have Matt Hoffman's Pro BMX (Tony Hawk's on a bike), Wakeboarding Unleashed Featuring Shaun Murray (Tony Hawk's on a wakeboard) and Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer... essentially Tony Hawk's on a surfboard.

## A life on the ocean wave

The concept is simple – you're a top surfer on a boat with a bunch of your peers, touring the world's beaches in search of that 'perfect wave'. You start off some way out from the shore, along comes a wave and off you go. The idea – as with the Tony Hawk's games – is to perform all sorts of tricks and challenges, however the obvious complication here is that rather than being on a static playing area, you're on a fluid surface, and this adds an extra element to the whole gameplay.

Now the question on everybody's lips has to be: 'is it as good as Tony Hawk's Pro Skater?' And the answer is simple: no. Not that it's a bad game you understand, but Kelly Slater's just doesn't

measure up to the mastery of the Hawkster's vehicle. There are a number of reasons for this, but they all come down to pretty much one thing – you're playing on water.

Sure, a lot of work has been done to ensure that the water in this game is impressive and – from the point of view of someone whose only knowledge of big waves has been gained from a ferry trip – seem realistic. The problem is that whatever level you're on, it ultimately looks the same. The colour might change slightly, and the waves come in an a variety of shapes and sizes, but when you compare these to the multitude of environments available in Tony Hawk's and other extreme sports titles, they're all just very... blue.

The movement of the waves also governs the gameplay – you're basically always moving in a fairly straight line, with all tricks being performed in front of the wave. Try and go against it and you're toast, so there's none of the freedom you get in other games. Even the various multiplayer options don't really add anything major to the mix, and as for the soundtrack – what's going on here? Instead of the usual mix of adrenaline-pumping rock, we get a mixture of ambient tunes that don't create any sense of urgency at all – if this was an extreme 'boating round the duck pond' game then fair enough, but when it comes to performing death-defying tricks... we want ROCK!

Ultimately Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer might appeal to those who can't get enough of their extreme sports, because the water effects are very nice and it does offer some degree of challenge. In the long-term, however, it's not going to attract the same kind of following as the more established titles in the genre. In fact, it's hard to see even surfing fans being particularly excited about it because surely watching a little guy trundling along a wave on TV isn't a patch on doing it for real? We'll stick with Tony, thanks very much.

## Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer in focus...

**1** As with the other titles in the O2 range, there are a variety of tricks for you to pull off. If you hope to link tricks together for the higher scores, then you really, REALLY need to play this with a gamepad.



**2** An aspect of Kelly Slater's on console that impressed everyone first time around was the realistic water effects. For the Mac version, the water has actually been improved, giving you the most convincing waves yet seen in a game!



**3** You're not all alone out on the water – as with real surfing, you'll find a number of other riders all trying to impress the masses with their skill. Just make sure that you don't collide with them, as it's considered very impolite...



## Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer

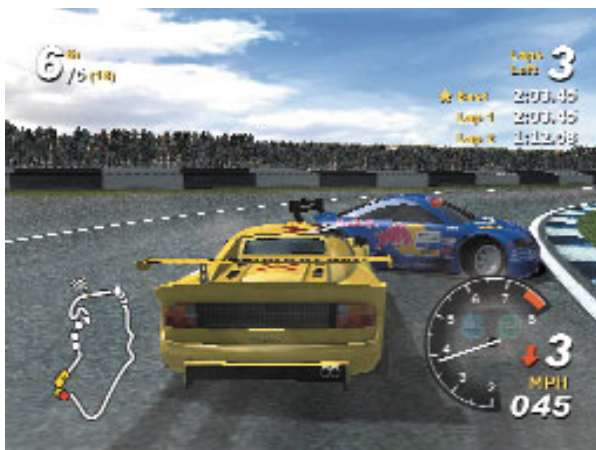
Developer's Web site:  
www.aspyr.com  
SRP: £39.00

What's good: Very nice wave effects, lots of tricks for you to perform

What's bad: Every level is essentially the same, freedom is limited

Overall 70%





*Oops, that's torn it! This guy is not going to be happy that we've hit him again, so we're gonna have to watch our backs from now on...*



*As you progress through the game you unlock new cars – the further you get, the faster they get, so it's worth persevering*

# Total Immersion Racing

A racing game where you have to be nice to your fellow drivers, or suffer the consequences later...

**T**he racing games market is a tough one. Maybe it's because anyone aged 17 or over (and in some areas these days, quite a bit younger than that) generally knows what it's like to be behind the wheel of a real car, whereas most of us have less experience with – say – trekking through jungles carrying heavy machine guns or flying through space, battling alien invaders. So basically, when it comes to driving games, we instantly know whether something feels real or not.

In the console market, the undisputed champion of the driving genre is the Gran Turismo series, which offers literally hundreds of cars and the most realistic vehicle physics ever seen. PlayStation2 owner or not, chances are, if you're a racing game fan, you'll have played GT. Developers know this when they create a new racer on any format – what's it going to have that will make it a viable competitor?

Total Immersion Racing, rather than trying to better the GT games, offers an alternative. Rather than the unforgiving, oh-so-realistic physics model that can make the GT titles a nightmare for the casual gamer, TIR offers more of an arcade feel. This means that whichever car you choose, you should still be able to offer a competent race – you don't need to have done your advanced driving licence and memorised all the racing lines in order to be able to play this one.

Visually, TIR is no slouch. Various different classes of vehicle are on offer, from the Audi TT through the McLaren F1 up to racing stars like the BMW V12 and Bentley Speed 8 (with top speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour) and all of the cars are authentically detailed and look absolutely gorgeous – you'll almost be afraid to take these shiny new automobiles out on

the track for fear of damaging them... not that you can, but we'll come to that in a moment.

## Reality bites

Track-wise, would-be race champions can choose from a variety of real-life circuits such as Silverstone and Hockenheim, and there are a few fictional ones as well. But range of vehicles and accuracy of the tracks isn't what Total Immersion Racing is all about. No, this game's ace in the hole comes in the form of a 'revolutionary' AI system.

In most racing games, your CPU-controlled opponents tend to drive their own race – they'll be programmed to hit the best racing line, or not, depending on their calculated level of skill, and aside from when they end up inadvertently getting in your way, your interaction with them is minimal. In TIR though, each of the AI drivers has their own personality, and how they drive changes depending on the actions of everyone else. If you cut-up or ram another driver, it annoys him, and he remembers it – and not just for the one race. In 'Career' mode, watch your back, because any slighted driver may well nurse his grudge until much later when he spots that opportunity to get even.

Ultimately, the AI of the other drivers is what keeps TIR from being a very average racing game. The vehicle models don't show any damage (this is, apparently, down to the terms of the licence deals with the various car manufacturers who don't want their beloved cars to get smashed up) and the slightly arcade racing style, which lets you bounce off barriers and ram other cars with abandon, won't meet with simulation fans' approval, so if it wasn't for the AI, there wouldn't be a whole lot to recommend this game. As it is, the AI adds a fun extra element to the gameplay, which means that while TIR is in no-way a Gran Turismo-beater, it definitely offers something a little different.

## Total Immersion Racing in focus...

**1** The cars in the game are meticulously re-created from the real thing, based on data supplied by the manufacturers. Unfortunately, this means they don't get dented and scarred – because apparently some of the licensees get a little funny about that sort of thing...



**2** The advanced AI is the real jewel in the crown of this game – your fellow drivers will remember an argument you had with them, and bring it up again much, much later.



**3** Because the handling of the cars isn't as strict as in some other racing games, you can have a little more fun – stick your foot down on corners and use the barriers (or opposing vehicles) to help you get round. Just don't annoy those opponents...



## Total Immersion Racing

**Developer's Web site:**  
www.feral.co.uk  
**Price:** £39.00

**What's good:** The AI is a nice touch to proceedings, and the cars and the tracks are nicely detailed

**What's bad:** The cars don't take any damage (boo!) and the handling may be a little arcadey for some

**Overall 75%**

# What's on the iCre

## Latest games and software

Play the latest games and power up your copy of iTunes with plug-ins and visual effects



### Championship Manager 4 (2003/2004 season) (Demo)

[www.feral.co.uk](http://www.feral.co.uk)

Yes, we know there's already been a demo of Championship Manager 4 on the iCreate CD, but before you accuse us of going football crazy this version is an update that brings you all of the teams and players from this year's league season. With everything current, you can concentrate on the important business of winning some silverware.



### Total Immersion Racing (Demo)

[www.feral.co.uk](http://www.feral.co.uk)

If you like the adrenaline rush of racing games you'll love Total Immersion Racing, which lets you compete in one of 18 GT class cars on the world's leading circuits. In a unique twist you can also build rivalries as you play. Thanks to the AI engine, computer controlled drivers will remember being cut up, blocked or rammed and they'll be back to even the score...



### Player Manager 2003 (Demo)

[www.vpltd.com/system/index.html](http://www.vpltd.com/system/index.html)

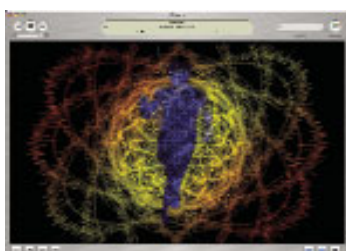
Continuing this month's soccer management theme is Player Manager 2003. What makes this program unique is the fact that not only does it put the emphasis on what actually happens on match days, but it also focuses far more on actual man management, allowing you to really get inside the personalities and psychologies of the players you pick to bring home the silverware.



### Reason 2.5 (Demo)

[www.propellerhead.se](http://www.propellerhead.se)

Apple's new recording studio program, GarageBand, gives Mac users an easy way to make digital music, but software synths like Reason offer far greater creative control. With a collection of synthesizers, a drum machine and a mixer, Reason puts professional studio features at your fingertips. This demo version is limited to just 20 minutes use and the save function is also disabled.



### ArKaos Visualizer 1.5.4 (Freeware)

[www.arkaos.net](http://www.arkaos.net)

A few years back Apple launched iTunes, the digital music jukebox software that we now take for granted. One of the great things about iTunes is that you can add third party visuals to the iTunes Visualizer by downloading and installing plug-ins like ArKaos. This cool utility intelligently matches the visuals it produces to the beat of the song playing at the time. It also works in Audion, but only in OS 9.



### Volume Logic (Demo)

[www.octiv.com](http://www.octiv.com)

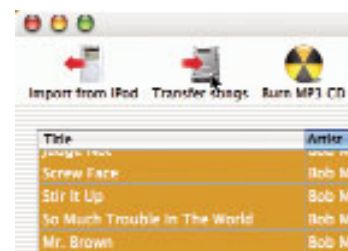
iTunes is a great program. With the ability to create massive playlists it's possible to load up hours of your favourite music, sit back and relax. It's a pain, though, to have to constantly adjust the volume because some tracks are loud and others are quiet. Volume Logic solves this problem by digitally remastering the audio output of your copy of iTunes on the fly, boosting the levels of quiet songs and lowering the levels of those recorded too loud.



### iWannaSleep 1.1 (Freeware)

[www.sb-software.de](http://www.sb-software.de)

Without doubt one of the simplest and most useful programs ever made is iWannaSleep. This useful utility allows you to choose a set time for iTunes, or indeed your Mac, to shutdown, making it perfect for those that like to drift off to their favourite tunes. What makes this program even better, though, is the ability to run a script after a set time, making it massively useful when combined with other iTunes plug-ins.



### iPodViewer 2.0.1 (Freeware)

<http://homepage.mac.com/initgraf/iPodViewer/frameset.html>

Here's an application that will help you get around one of the most frustrating things about Apple's digital music player. iPods, as any owner will tell you, keep your music in a hidden folder so it cannot be transferred back to a Mac. iPod Viewer gets around this by making the songs visible so that you can transfer them back into iTunes with just a few simple clicks.



# ate CD

## Essential Mac resources

Protect your Mac from the evils of the Internet and improve your Photoshop skills with over one hour of official Adobe video training



### Intego Internet security tools

[www.intego.com](http://www.intego.com)

Us Mac users are a lucky bunch. We rarely, if ever, have to deal with viruses and we can be smug that the security of our computers is not under as much threat of being hacked as those of the PC users we know. That doesn't mean we should be complacent. Included on this month's CD are four top programs from Internet security specialist Intego. Virus Barrier will protect you from Web bugs, Content Barrier will protect children from the seedier side of the Net, Net Barrier offers protection from hackers and Personal Backup ensures that Mac problems won't result in you losing all your data.

### Classic Menu 2.72 (Shareware)

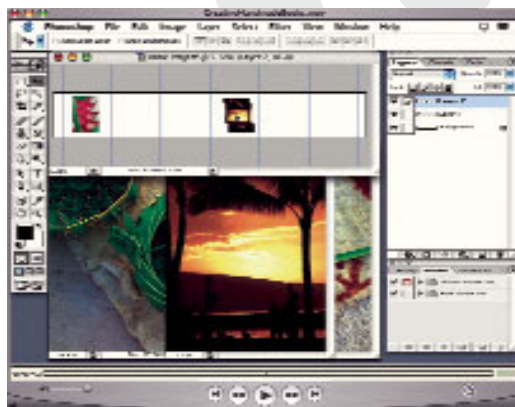
[www.sigsoftware.com/classicmenu](http://www.sigsoftware.com/classicmenu)

Take a trip down memory lane by changing the Apple icon on the Apple menu back to its multi-coloured OS 9 form with this top customisation tool. Classic Menu is sure to bring a smile to the face of any Macintosh old timer.

### Mozilla 1.5.1 (Freeware)

[www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com)

Mac users are spoilt when it comes to Web browsers. Diehards probably still cling to Netscape, more recent converts will nail their colours to the Internet Explorer mast and Apple fanatics will only use Safari. There's another free browser out there, however, in the form of open source Mozilla, a program whose innovative features like Tabbed browsing and pop-up window blocking showed Safari the way to go. With built-in email, IRC and newsgroup clients this program can look after every facet of your online life.



### Russell Brown's Power Hour

[www.russellbrown.com](http://www.russellbrown.com)

We've got a real treat for you this issue with over one hour of video tutorials for Photoshop CS, the latest and greatest version of Adobe's image editor. What makes these video tutorials extra special, however, is that they are presented by Adobe's very own resident photoshop guru Russell Preston Brown. Over the course of four QuickTime modules, Russell shows you how to use the new features in Photoshop CS to improve your digital imaging skills and demos some of the breathtaking features in the latest release such as Shadow Highlight and the new File Browser.

### iCREATE EXTRAS

#### QUICKSTART

Never used a Mac before? Just switching over to OS X from OS 9? Then get up to speed with OS X and all of the main iApps by using exclusive PDF tutorial guides from past issues.

#### iCREATE DESKTOPS

Yet another installment of iCreate desktop pictures for you to brighten up your Mac's desktop with. To set one as your desktop picture just open up 'System Preferences', click on the 'Desktop' tab and drag and drop it into place.

#### PROJECT FILES

To make it easier for you to follow our tutorials we've included the support files from the Reason, Photoshop Elements and iDVD projects on this CD so that you can use them to learn new skills.



## How to use the iCreate CD

### Running the Disc

When you insert the *iCreate* CD in your Mac it loads as a volume on the desktop. Once it has loaded, double-click on the icon and a window will open. Now double-click on the *iCreate* icon inside to load the CD interface. When you install software it may unpack to your desktop as a disk image. Double-click this to install.

### Licensing

Some software on the CD-ROM is shareware, which means that if you continue to use the program you should register it with the author. Freeware programs can be used free of charge. Trial versions of software are either time-limited (eg they will stop working after 30 days) or have some features disabled.

### Damaged Discs

If your CD has been snapped, scratched, corrupted or cracked, please return it to the address below for a free replacement:

Cover Disc Returns  
Highbury Entertainment Limited  
Paragon House  
St Peters Road  
Bournemouth  
BH1 2JS

If you don't have a CD at all, call 01202 200200 or email [subs@paragon.co.uk](mailto:subs@paragon.co.uk) and we'll send you one free of charge.

### Help!

For help with the CD, email [cdhelp@paragon.co.uk](mailto:cdhelp@paragon.co.uk) or call 01202 200259 on Wednesdays between 2pm and 6pm only. We regret that we are unable to offer technical support on use of the software or your Mac. All the software is tested for bugs and viruses. Highbury Entertainment Limited will not accept liability or responsibility for loss or damage that occurs directly or indirectly from using this CD-ROM.

# iWant...

## 20th Anniversary Mac

**The lowdown:** It's 1997 and Apple is racking its brains about how to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch of the first Apple computer. A young British product designer called Jonathan Ive is part of a team of engineers working on blueprints for a home computer of the future that incorporates elements made of wood and leather into its design. The result was the 20th Anniversary Mac, a revolutionary home computer design that came with a state of the art Bose sound system and was affectionately dubbed TAM by its owners. With only 10,000 ever made and a prohibitive price tag of \$7,500, this was one Macintosh that was strictly for the hardcore. A buzzing community dedicated to the TAM still exists on the Web, with dedicated owners trading spare parts on eBay and waxing lyrical about the merits of the TAM's unique design.

**Price at the time:** \$7,500

**Price now:** \$500 on eBay

**Strictly:** for the connoisseur







**Specs:** The 20th Anniversary Mac didn't just look stunning; it also boasted some innovative features. Top of the list was the stunning Bose sound system, which was made up of two speakers sitting either side of the display and a separate sub woofer. The TAM also incorporated several aspects of Apple's laptop designs, too, with a laptop style LCD screen, a trackpad instead of a mouse and an ultra-thin enclosure. Other highlights included a CD-ROM drive turned on its side – a feature seen in many of today's stereo systems – a keyboard with a leather hand rest and a TV card..

**Codename:** Spartacus  
**Processor:** 250Mhz Power PC  
**Memory:** 32Mb RAM  
**Hard Drive:** 2Gb  
**Display:** 12.1"  
**OS:** Mac OS 8.0



# When things go wrong...

# Emergency

According to the hype, OS X is so stable that it never crashes. But that doesn't mean nothing can go wrong. And when it does, you'll be stuck. Join us as we show you how to troubleshoot the most common Mac problems



## Next issue



### iTunes

More tips and tricks for getting the most from your iPod and iTunes



### iMovie

Take a look at all the new features in iMovie 4 – the latest release of this top app



### iPhoto

Create a simple homepage for your digital photographs with .mac and our help



### iCal

Finding third party calendars and sharing your own calendars on the Web



### Dreamweaver

Discover how to build a stylish Web site with this top WYSIWYG Web editor



### Panther

Get up to speed fast with the latest version of OS X with our expert guides



### Photoshop Elements

Discover how to create your own desktop pictures with Elements



### Final Cut Express

More advanced editing tips and tricks for Apple movie maestros





## back issues

Catch up on what you've missed by ordering these great issues of the best Mac mag around for just £7, including postage and packing



**ISSUE ONE**  
Find out how to set up the perfect creative studio and hit the ground running with our introductory guides to all of the major iApps that come free with your Mac



**ISSUE TWO**  
Get the most from your iPod in our Complete Guide to the iPod feature, and step back in time as we look at the illustrious history of the Mac platform.



**ISSUE THREE**  
Features on Panther and setting up wireless networks with AirPort Extreme, tutorials on turning photos into watercolours in Photoshop and advanced iDVD tricks revealed



**ISSUE FOUR**  
Learn how to shoot to thrill in our special digital photography feature and get up to speed fast with Panther, with our nine-page tutorial special on this exciting new version of the Mac Operating System.

A limited number of iCreate back issues are available. Here's how to order them:  
Call us on +44 (0) 870 444 8682 or Email us at: [icreate@cisubs.co.uk](mailto:icreate@cisubs.co.uk)

What if Apple made...



This picture is for illustrative purposes only;  
this tasty looking wrist watch does not exist

# Introducing the iWatch

The time has come. The time is now. It's time for a change.

## For busy people with busy lives

Creative people lead busy lives, that's why Apple is introducing the iWatch – a stylish and exclusive timepiece that integrates perfectly with the applications on your Macintosh and will keep you running on time. A special miniature USB interface allows you to connect the iWatch to your Mac and use the included iWatch software to immediately sync with the correct time in any location worldwide. And there's a tiny 8MB hard drive built in that allows you to easily ferry small and important files around with you.

## Quality takes time

The iWatch is the public face of years of research into cutting-edge watchmaking technology and marries the style of a traditional watch face with

the practicality of digital technology. Although the iWatch's screen appears to suggest that its body houses a traditional timepiece, this watch is totally digital apart from the small motor used to control the position of the hands.

## Night and day

The iWatch will help you to manage your life day and night. A backlight, like the one seen in the iPod, enables you to tell the time even in the darkest lighting conditions and a built-in speaker allows you to sync with your iCal Calendars and play an alarm when an appointment is due.

Available in minimalist brushed metal (pictured above) or stylish iMac white and in both men's and ladies' styles, this is one accessory no Mac fan can afford to live without.

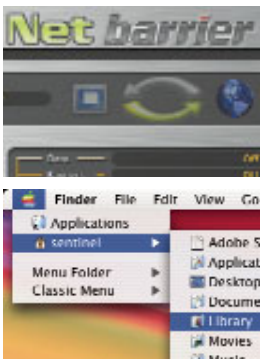


# iCreate

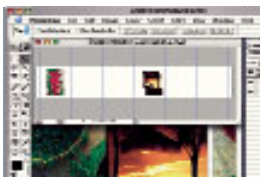
The creative magazine for Mac users

## ON YOUR FREE CD:

Four top security solutions for your Mac from Intego



Best Mac utilities



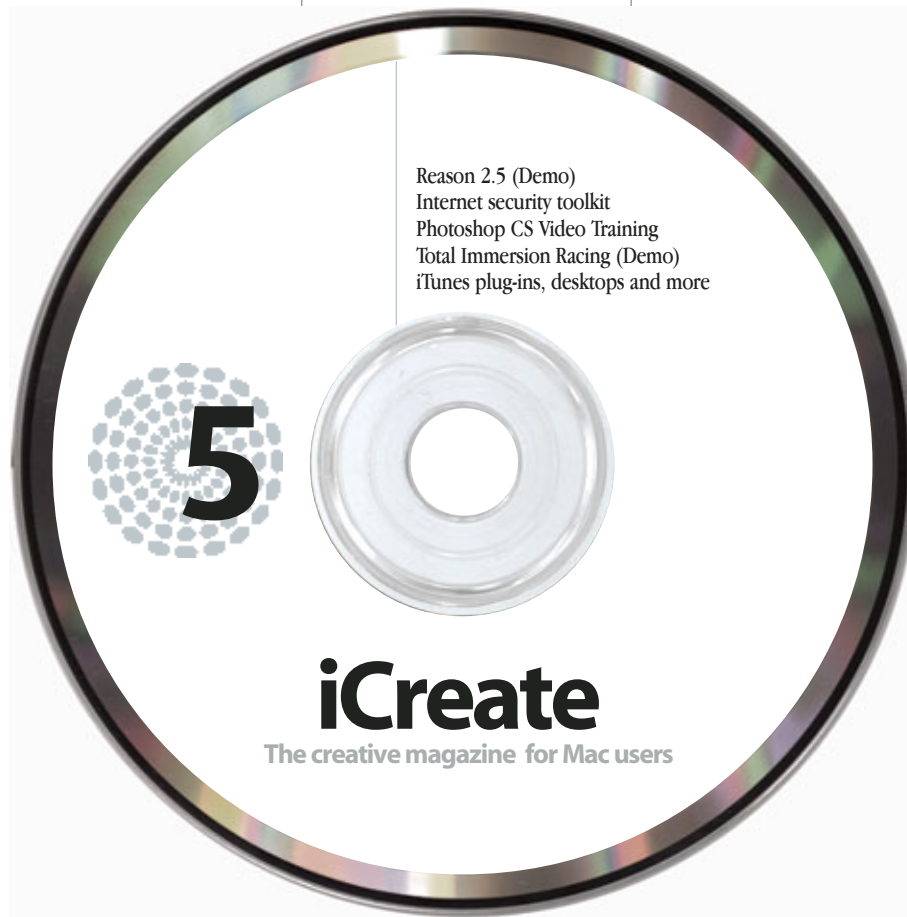
FREE Photoshop CS video tutorials



iTunes 4 plug-ins

## Disc Five

Reason 2.5 (Demo)  
Internet security toolkit  
Photoshop CS Video Training  
Total Immersion Racing (Demo)  
iTunes plug-ins, desktops and more



## HOTTEST MAC FILES:

Try-outs of the very latest Mac games and creative tools



### Total Immersion Racing (30-day demo)

Compete against a team of computer controlled drivers in this high octane, all-action racing game.



### Reason 2.5 (30-day trial)

Follow the tutorial on page 92 and make your own digital music with this classy software synth.



### Championship Manager 4 (30-day demo)

Steer your side to glory in the 2003/2004 Season update to this popular app.

Is your free CD missing?

Please ring +44 (0) 1202 200200 or email [subs@paragon.co.uk](mailto:subs@paragon.co.uk)



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